福本伸行

●近代麻雀コミックス●
FUKUMOTO NOBUYUKI
Kindai Mahjong Comics

9

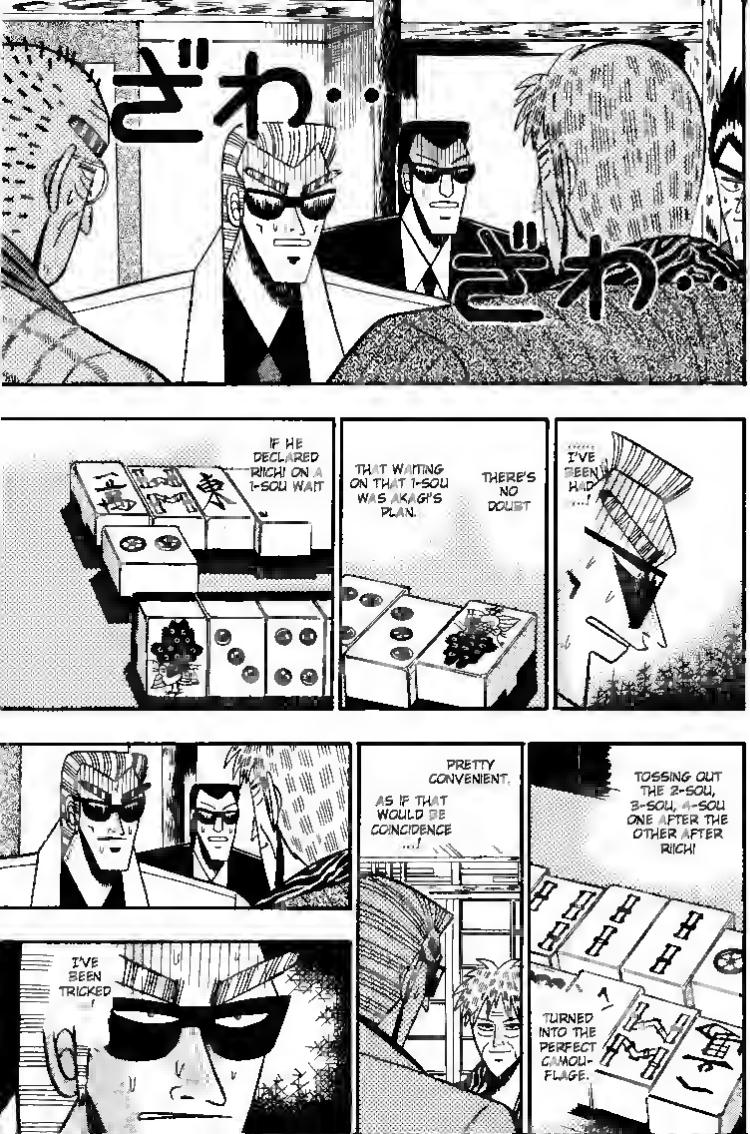
天

TEN

天和通りの快男児

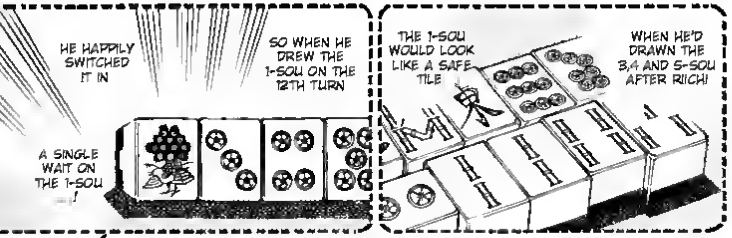
THE NICE GUY ON THE PATH OF TENHOU

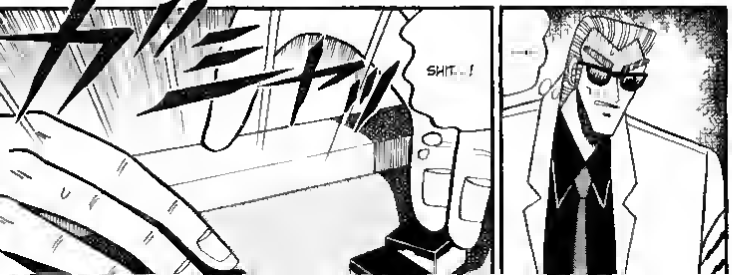
竹書房
TAKE SHOBOU

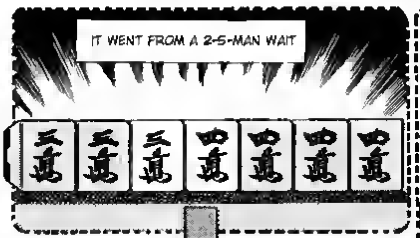

ざわ・・
ざわ・・
IF HE DECLARED RICHI ON A 1-SOU WAIT
THAT WAITING ON THAT 1-SOU WAS AKAGI'S PLAN.
THERE'S NO DOUBT
.....I'VE BEEN HAD.....!
TOSSING OUT THE 2-SOU, 3-SOU, 4-SOU ONE AFTER THE OTHER AFTER RICHI
PRETTY CONVENIENT.
AS IF THAT WOULD BE COINCIDENCE ...!
TURNED INTO THE PERFECT CAMOU-FLAGE.
I'VE BEEN TRICKED!

天

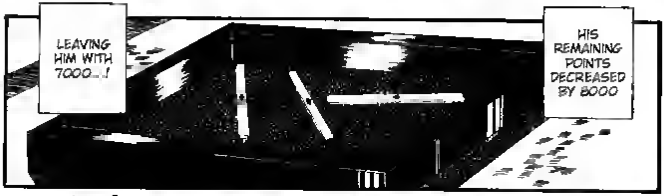
CHAPTER 75
A GIFT







IN THE FINAL STAGES OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE
HARADA HAD FIGURED IT ALL OUT BUT
IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE.
HE SPENT A PAINFUL 8000 POINTS.


LEAVING HIM WITH 7000...!
HIS REMAINING POINTS DECREASED BY 8000

HEH HEH...
HARADA HIMSELF WOULD BE ELIMINATED FROM THE SHOWDOWN.
IF HE DEALT INTO THE NEXT MANGAN
THAT WAS HOW FAR HE'D BEEN CORNERED.
THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING.

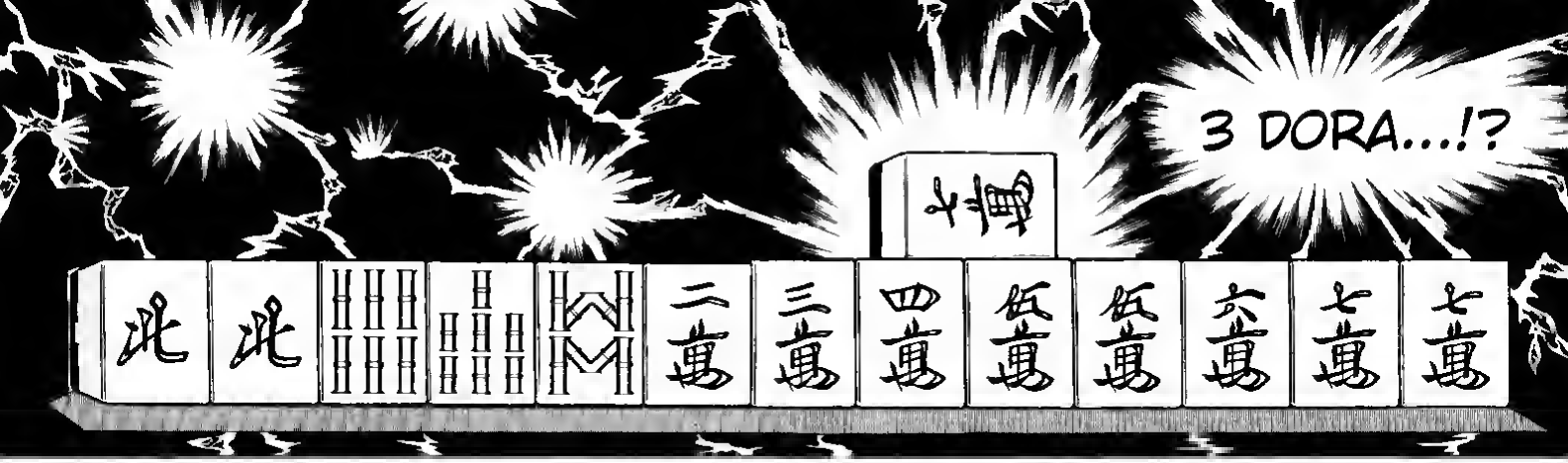
SOGA IS THE ONLY ONE FROM WEST THAT CAN ENTER THE BATTLE HEAD-ON.
NOW IT'S ONLY SOGA...!
SO FOR DEFENSE NOW, I JUST HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON SOGA'S MOVEMENTS.
IN THIS SITUATION
HE HAS TO PAY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ATTENTION TO DEFENSE.
HARADA CAN'T DECLARE RICHI SO EASILY NOW.
IN FACT, PLAYING INTO A MANGAN WILL BE THE END FOR HIM
TAKE OUT HARADA ...!
AND CONCENTRATE MY ATTACK ON HARADA
NOT SIMPLE AT ALL...
BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT SIMPLE
HEH HEH...
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GETTING ALL WORKED UP.
IDIOT...!

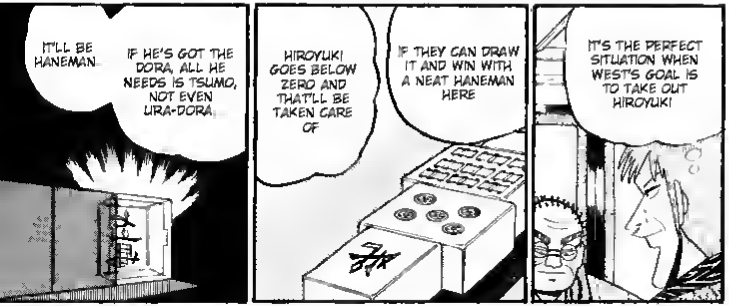
WITH THAT WIN, IT'S GONE NOW, TOO EAST 33000 AND WEST 28000
THE ONLY PLACE WHERE WEST HAD THE ADVANTAGE IN TOTAL POINTS
SURE, IT'S TRUE THAT HARADA IS CORNERED NOW
DESPITE THAT
BUT
STILL HAS THE ADVANTAGE...!
DESPITE THAT, WEST...
THEIR ACHILLES' HEEL...!
ONE THAT CAN NEVER BE BURIED ONE THEY CAN'T COVER UP
EAST
STILL HAS A CRITICAL DISADVANTAGE
OR IN OTHER WORDS

IT'S TEN AND AKAGI ...!
AT ITS VERY ROOT, EAST'S WEAK POINT ISN'T HIROYUKI.
THAT'S ONLY THE TRIGGER, NOT THE REAL NATURE OF IT.
THE SOURCE OF IT IS HIROYUKI'S MERE 3000 POINTS, BUT
WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY STRIKES
THAT'S WHAT I CAN SEE!
THAT IS EAST'S WEAK POINT...!
TREATING HIM GENTLY IS EATING AWAY AT THEIR NEST
THEIR FLAW AS PLAYERS OF THIS GAME ...!
AN UNGUARDED CRITICAL POINT WHERE I WILL KNOCK THEM OUT IN ONE BLOW...!
I'LL CLOSE IN ON THEM...!

AKAGI AND HIROYUKI AT THE TABLE
WINDS CHANGED SOUTH 1ST ROUND
AND SOGA AND HARADA
PON ...!
THE DORA HAS GONE TO SOGA...
7-MAN IS THE DORA
THIS ISN'T GOOD
CH'...

RIICHI ...!
URGH...
ALREADY MANGAN THEN?
HE GOT A PAIR OF THE DORA...
RIICHI AFTER GETTING THE DORA MEANS
SOGA HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY AIMING FOR CHII-TOI-TSU SO FAR.
HERE WE GO...
HUH...?


3 DORA...!?

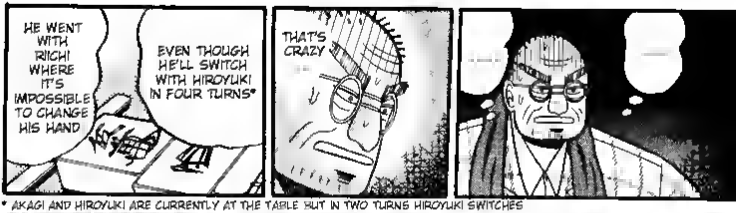

IT'LL BE HANEMAN.
IF HE'S GOT THE DORA, ALL HE NEEDS IS TSUMO, NOT EVEN URA-DORA.
HIROYUKI GOES BELOW ZERO AND THAT'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF
IF THEY CAN DRAW IT AND WIN WITH A NEAT HANEMAN HERE
IT'S THE PERFECT SITUATION WHEN WEST'S GOAL IS TO TAKE OUT HIROYUKI

GUESS HE'S OUT OF LUCK.
I MANAGED TO GET THREE OF THE DORA.
HIS CHANCES OF GETTING IT ARE GONE.
BUT...
A RATIONAL STRATEGY, BUT.....
NOT BAD.

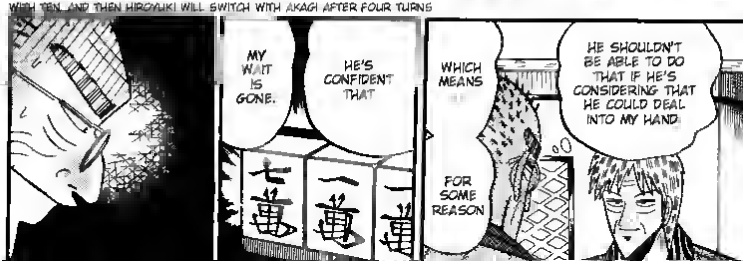
THIS MEANS THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE 7-MAN IN HIS HAND.
IF I HAVE THREE OF THE DORA

A SINGLE WAIT ON THE DORA...!?

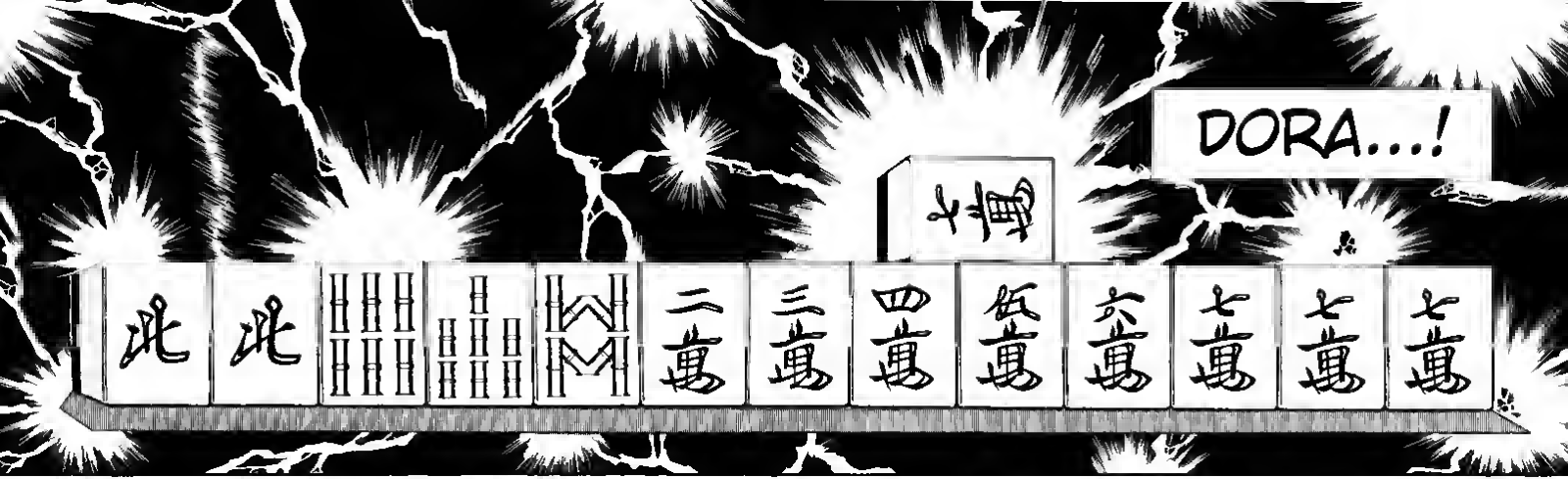
WHILE HIROYUKI IS AT THE TABLE.
MOST OF THIS ROUND WILL PASS
TEN AND I WILL BE AT THE TABLE.
THIS ROUND, FOR ONLY A MERE TWO TURNS
I SEE

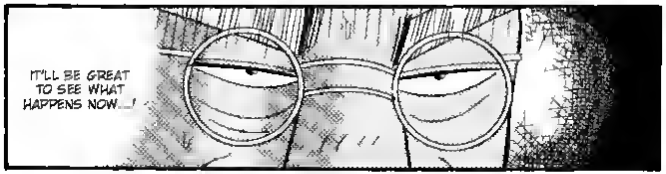

HE WENT WITH RICHI WHERE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CHANGE HIS HAND
EVEN THOUGH HE'LL SWITCH WITH HIROYUKI IN FOUR TURNS*
THAT'S CRAZY

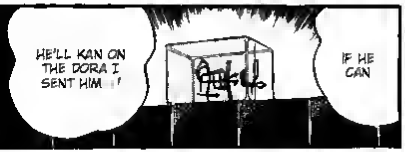
* AKAGI AND HIROYUKI ARE CURRENTLY AT THE TABLE BUT IN TWO TURNS HIROYUKI SWITCHES WITH TEN, AND THEN HIROYUKI WILL SWITCH WITH AKAGI AFTER FOUR TURNS


MY WAIT IS GONE.
HE'S CONFIDENT THAT
WHICH MEANS
FOR SOME REASON
HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT IF HE'S CONSIDERING THAT HE COULD DEAL INTO MY HAND.

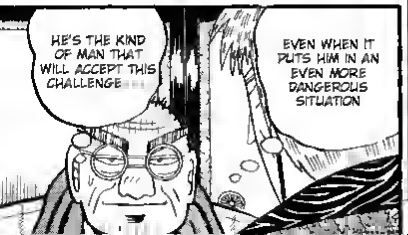
HE'S GOT THREE OF THE DORA
I SEE
TAKE IT, AKAGI.
HEH HEH
SOGA DREW TWO TILES AT THIS POINT
AND PLACED A TILE FROM HIS HAND IN THE WALL
NEXT TURN
IT'S A GIFT FROM ME.
HUH ...?

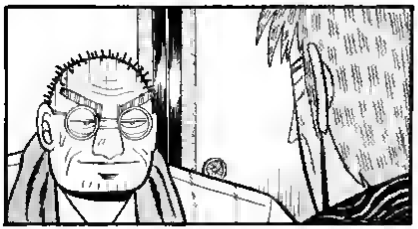

DORA...!


IT'LL BE GREAT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS NOW...!

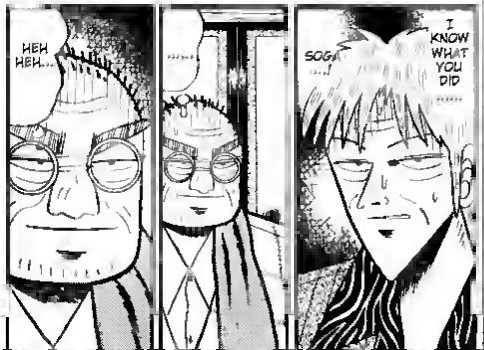

HE'LL KAN ON THE DORA I SENT HIM...!
IF HE CAN

HE'S NOT THE KIND OF MAN THAT WILL BACK DOWN.
THAT MAN AKAGI..... I'M DELIBERATELY PROVOKING HIM BY DOING THIS.

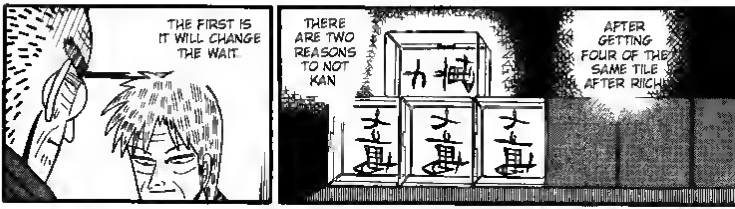

HE'S THE KIND OF MAN THAT WILL ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE...
EVEN WHEN IT PUTS HIM IN AN EVEN MORE DANGEROUS SITUATION

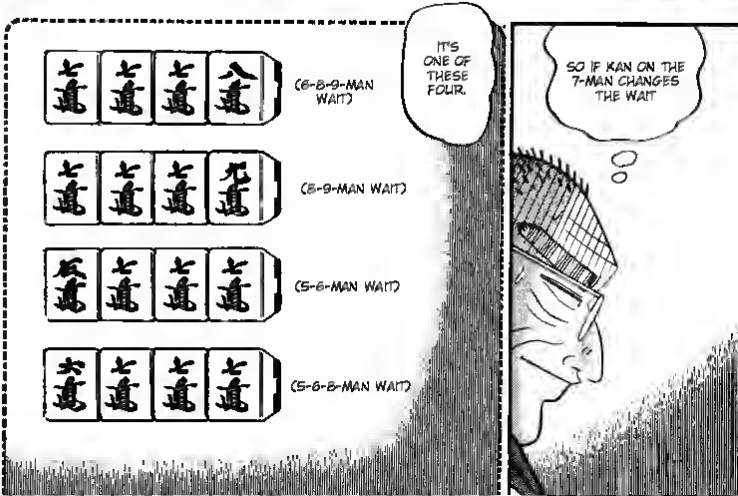

GH .....

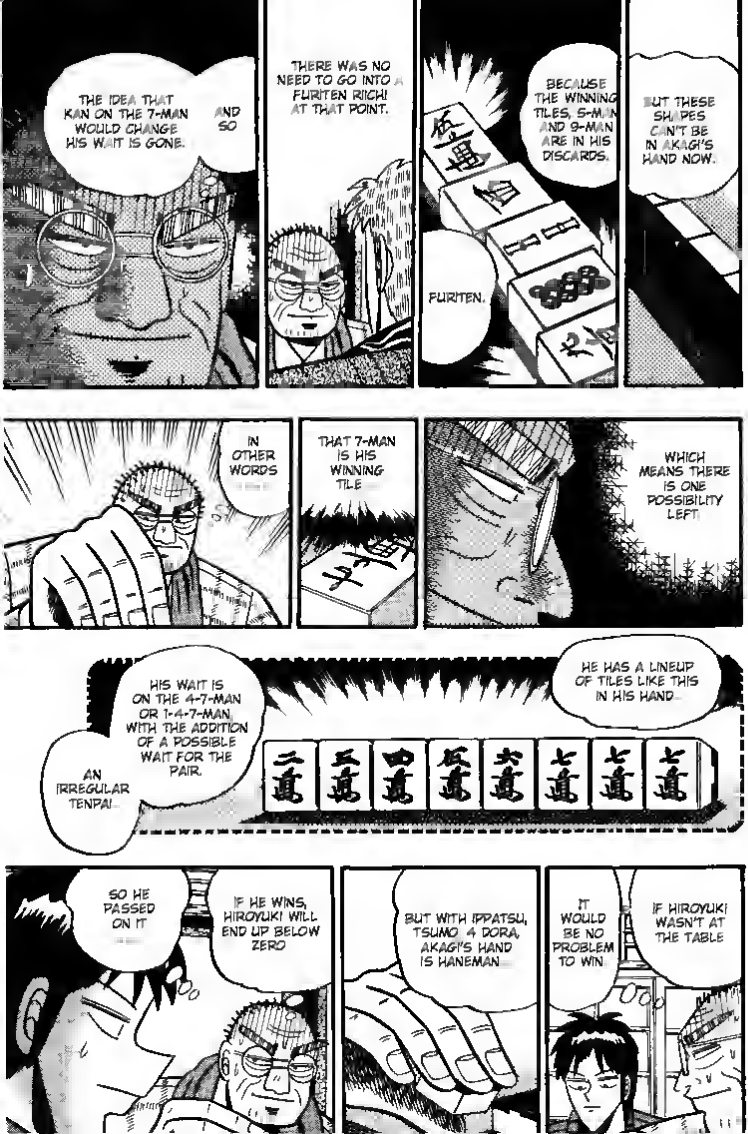
THE FOURTH DORA ...!

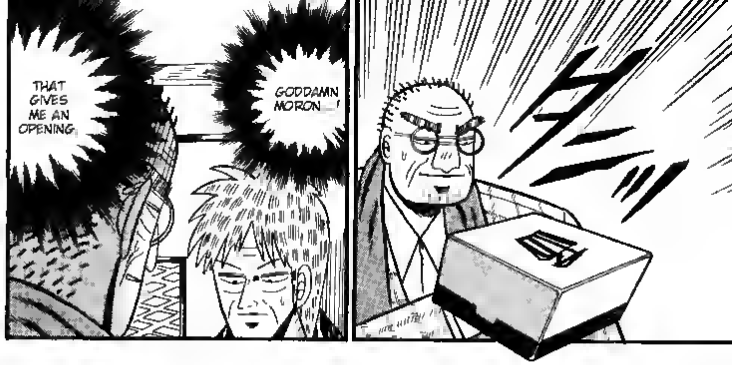

HEH HEH...
SOGA...!
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID .....

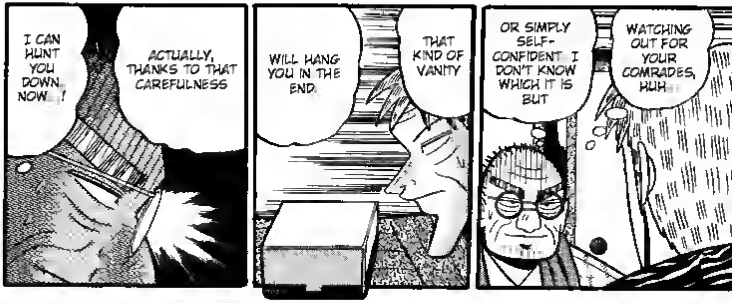
NO... IT'S NOT THAT HE DIDN'T...
HE DIDN'T KAN.
HE COULDN'T
HEH HEH.


THE FIRST IS IT WILL CHANGE THE WAIT.
THERE ARE TWO REASONS TO NOT KAN
AFTER GETTING FOUR OF THE SAME TILE AFTER RICHI

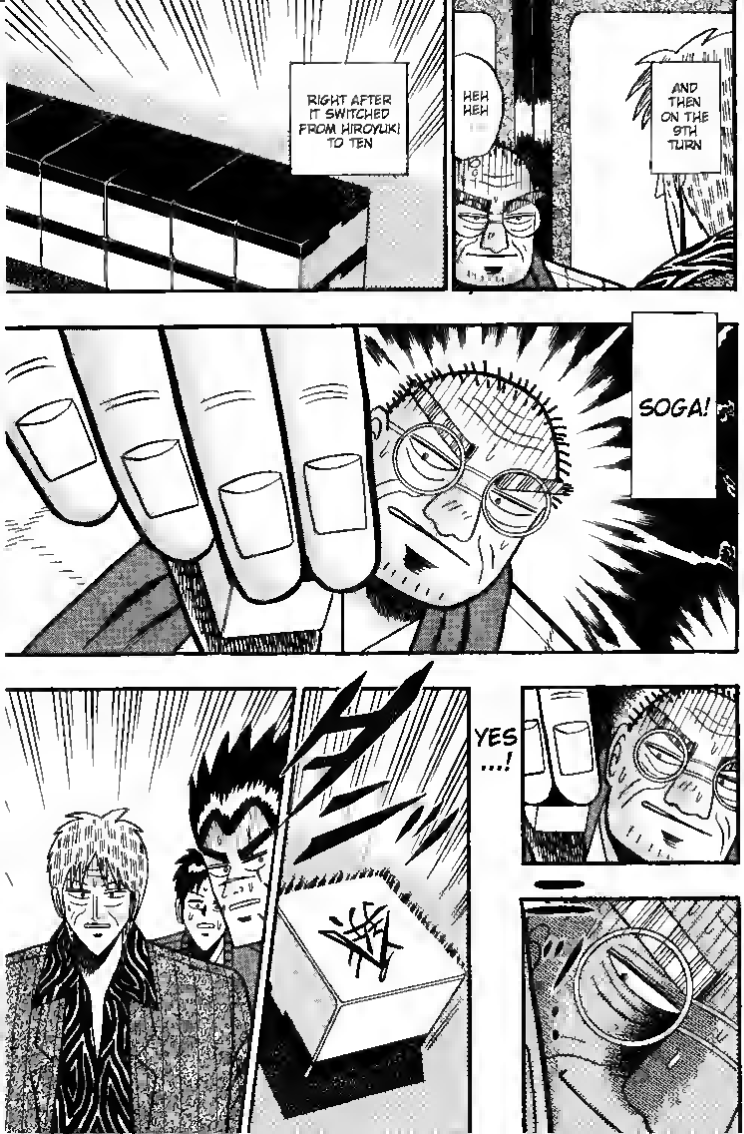

(6-8-9-MAN WAIT)
(5-9-MAN WAIT)
(5-6-MAN WAIT)
(5-6-8-MAN WAIT)
IT'S ONE OF THESE FOUR.
SO IF KAN ON THE 7-MAN CHANGES THE WAIT


THE IDEA THAT KAN ON THE 7-MAN WOULD CHANGE HIS WAIT IS GONE.
AND SO
THERE WAS NO NEED TO GO INTO A FURITEN RICHI AT THAT POINT.
BECAUSE THE WINNING TILES, 5-MAN AND 9-MAN ARE IN HIS DISCARDS.
FURITEN.
BUT THESE SHAPES CAN'T BE IN AKAGI'S HAND NOW.
IN OTHER WORDS
THAT 7-MAN IS HIS WINNING TILE
WHICH MEANS THERE IS ONE POSSIBILITY LEFT.
HE HAS A LINEUP OF TILES LIKE THIS IN HIS HAND
HIS WAIT IS ON THE 4-7-MAN OR 1-4-7-MAN WITH THE ADDITION OF A POSSIBLE WAIT FOR THE PAIR.
AN IRREGULAR TENPAI
SO HE PASSED ON IT
IF HE WINS, HIROYUKI WILL END UP BELOW ZERO
BUT WITH IPPATSU, TSUMO 4 DORA, AKAGI'S HAND IS HANEMAN
IT WOULD BE NO PROBLEM TO WIN
IF HIROYUKI WASN'T AT THE TABLE


THAT GIVES ME AN OPENING
GODDAMN MORON...!

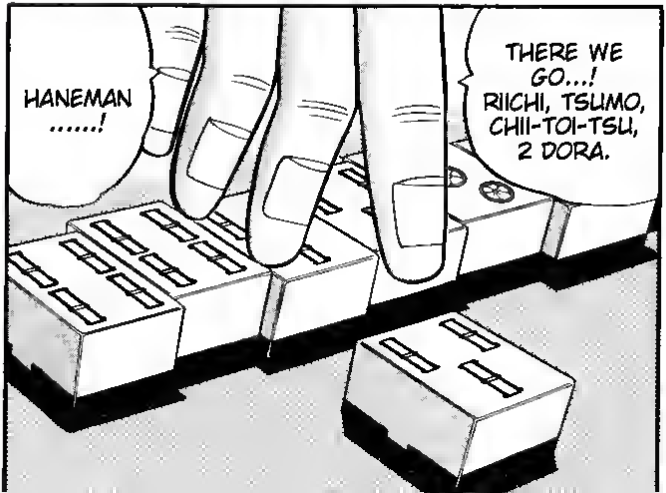

I CAN HUNT YOU DOWN NOW...!
ACTUALLY, THANKS TO THAT CAREFULNESS
WILL HANG YOU IN THE END.
THAT KIND OF VANITY
OR SIMPLY SELF-CONFIDENT. I DON'T KNOW WHICH IT IS BUT
WATCHING OUT FOR YOUR COMRADES, HUH...

INSTEAD, I CAN SEND WINNING TILES HIS WAY
I DON'T HAVE TO AVOID AKAGI WINNING
WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT AKAGI
IT'S EASY TO STOP HIM IN HIS TRACKS.
THE BEST CHANCE
CAUGHT BY HIS WINNING TILE BEING EXCHANGED FOR POISON...
AS LONG AS HIROYUKI IS AT THE TABLE, HE CAN'T WIN.
THAT WILL KNOCK HIM OUT.
IS WHEN YOU'RE KNOCKED OUT BY FURITEN.


RIGHT AFTER IT SWITCHED FROM HIROYUKI TO TEN
HEH HEH
AND THEN ON THE 9TH TURN
SOGA!
YES ...!

GOT IT! CHII-TOI-TSU, TSUMO...!
F...
F...
THE QUESTION IS, WILL THERE BE URA-DORA...?!
HEH HEH ...
IT'S ABOUT TIME I GOT SOME
GH...

HEH
HEH
HEH
...

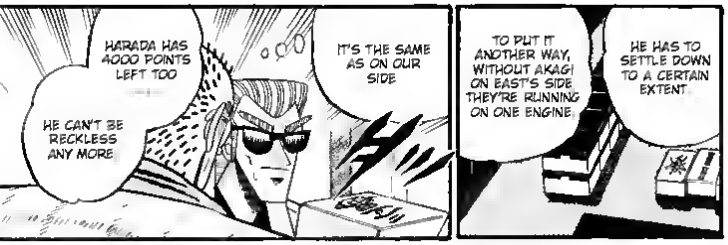

HANEMAN
.....!
THERE WE GO...! RIICHI, TSUMO, CHII-TOI-TSU, 2 DORA.

YOU'LL BE THE ONE LEFT CRYING
IF YOU DON'T WIN WHEN YOU SHOULD
HEH HEH...
ざわ‥
IS WHAT'S GOING TO HANG YOU IN THE END
THAT TWISTED WAY OF PLAYING
AS THE DEALER, AKAGI, YOU PAY 8000
WITH THIS HANEMAN TSUMO
HEH HEH...
I FINALLY HAVE YOUR NECK IN MY GRASP...
WHEN I TSUMO FOR HANEMAN, YOU'LL GO BELOW ZERO IF YOU'RE THE DEALER.
NEXT TIME
5000...!
AND NOW THE POINTS LEFT FROM YOUR 11000 ARE

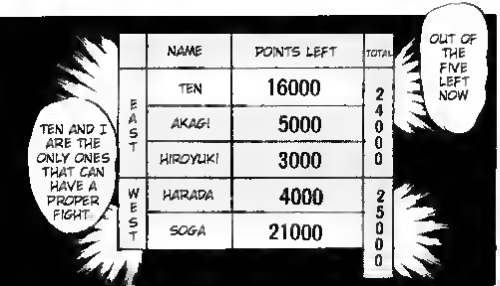
HEY, AKAGI .....
BETTER SHAPE UP AND OPEN YOUR EYES
STOP SCREWING AROUND AND WIPING OTHER PEOPLE'S ASSES FOR THEM.
YOU'LL END UP DEAD!
THOSE ARE THE RULES OF THE GAME

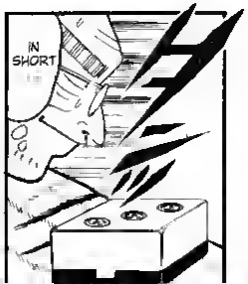
...ONE MORE PERSON...
WHEN ONE MORE FALLS FROM THESE FIVE PEOPLE
FOR WEST: HARADA AND MYSELF.
FOR EAST: TEN, AKAGI, AND HIROYUKI
WILL BE SETTLED.
THE FOUR PEOPLE WHO WILL CROWD AROUND THE SHOWDOWN TABLE

CHAPTER 76
READINESS


HARADA HAS 4000 POINTS LEFT TOO
IT'S THE SAME AS ON OUR SIDE
HE CAN'T BE RECKLESS ANY MORE

TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, WITHOUT AKAGI ON EAST'S SIDE, THEY'RE RUNNING ON ONE ENGINE.
HE HAS TO SETTLE DOWN TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.


NAME
POINTS LEFT
TOTAL
EAST
TEN
16000
AKAGI
5000
HIROYUKI
3000
24000
WEST
HARADA
4000
SOGA
21000
25000
TEN AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT CAN HAVE A PROPER FIGHT.
OUT OF THE FIVE LEFT NOW


IN SHORT

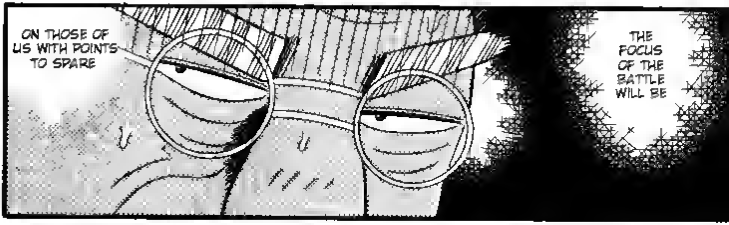
THE ONLY ONE TO WATCH OUT FOR IS TEN...
IN THIS SITUATION NOW

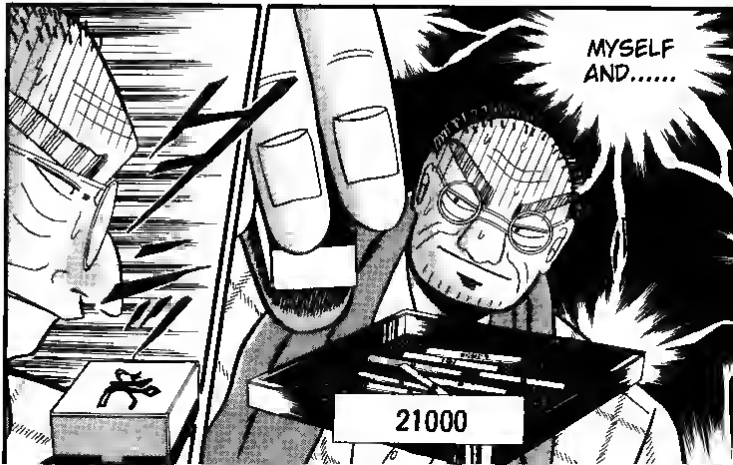
HE STILL CAN'T GET CARELESS,
EVEN IF HE IS A GENIUS
BECAUSE IF HE DEALS IN, IT'S OVER FOR HIM

AKAGI HAS 5000 POINTS LEFT

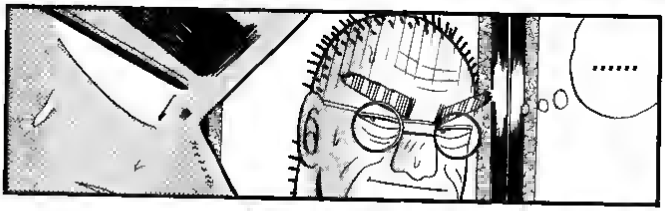
AND HIROYUKI CONTINUING TO HOLD AKAGI BACK
WITH THAT HANEMAN I WON A SHORT WHILE AGO

IN THE END
ON THE DEFENSE
THOSE THREE ARE HALF DEAD
HARADA
AKAGI, HIROYUKI


ON THOSE OF US WITH POINTS TO SPARE
THE FOCUS OF THE BATTLE WILL BE


MYSELF AND.....
21000

TEN ...!
16000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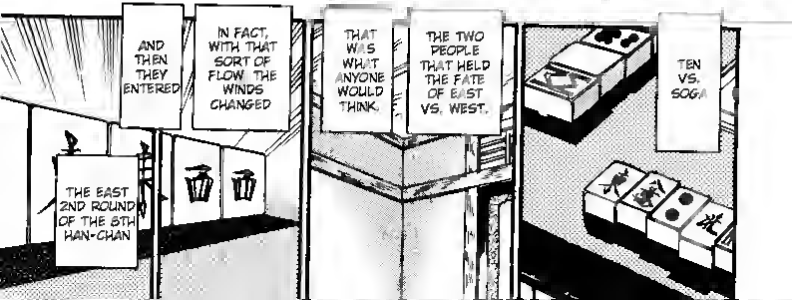
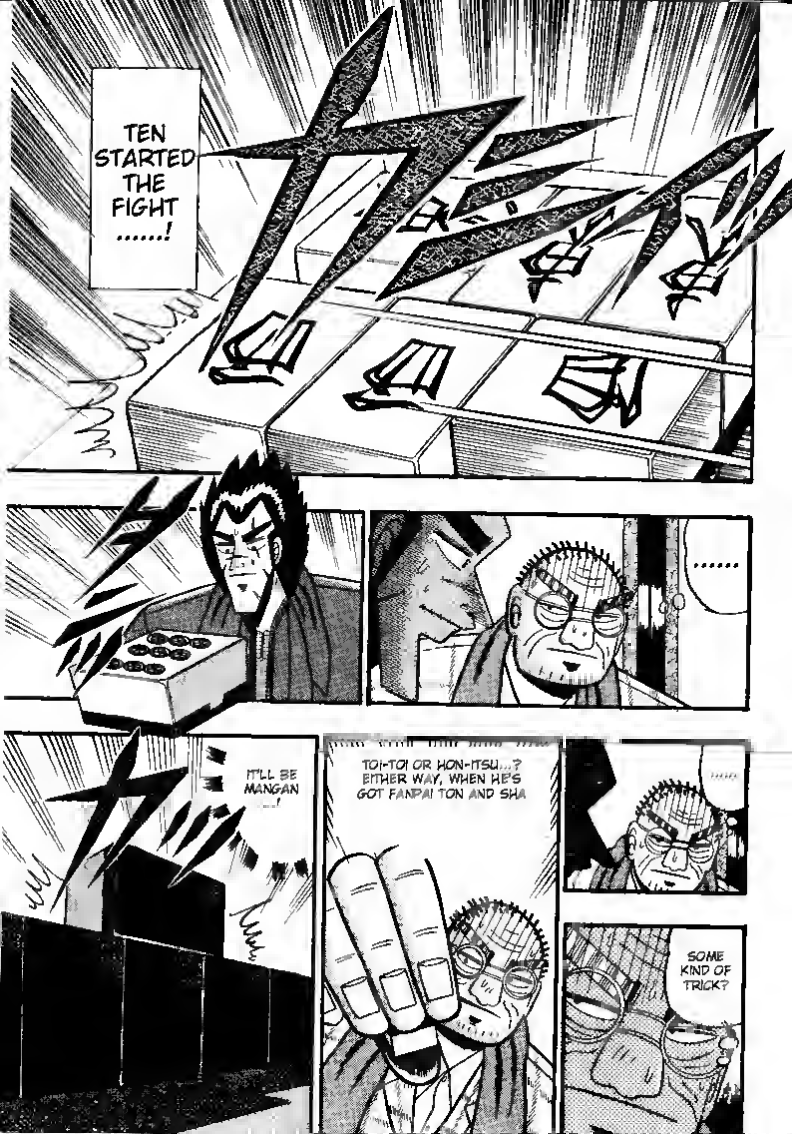
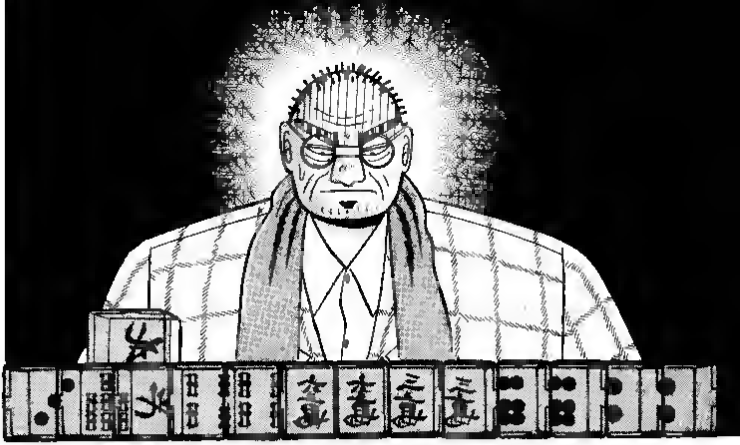
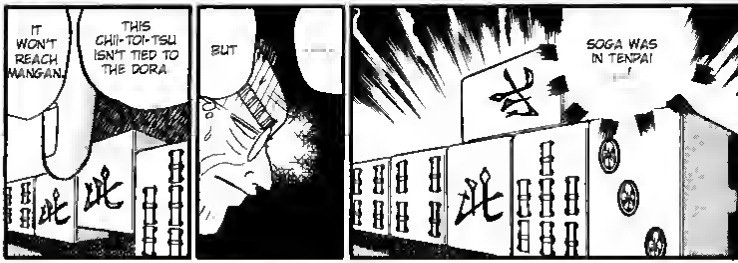

TEN VS. SOGA
THE TWO PEOPLE THAT HELD THE FATE OF EAST VS. WEST.
THAT WAS WHAT ANYONE WOULD THINK.
IN FACT, WITH THAT SORT OF FLOW THE WINDS CHANGED
AND THEN THEY ENTERED
THE EAST 2ND ROUND OF THE 8TH HAN-CHAN

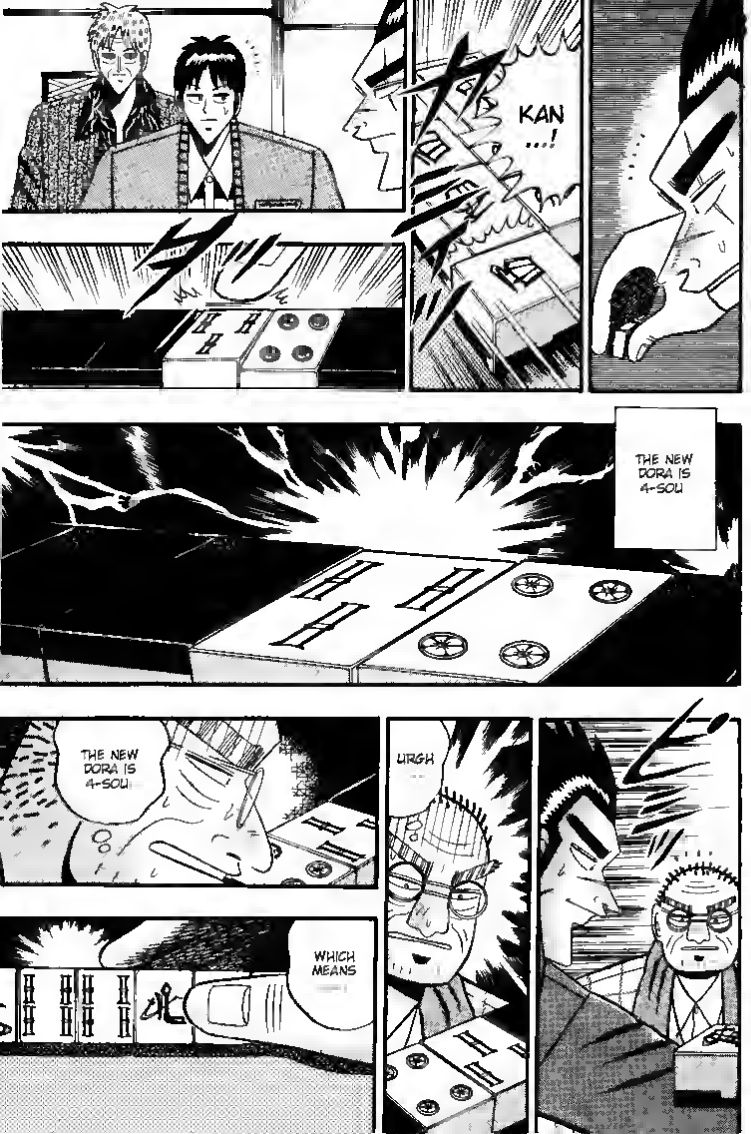
PON...!
PON
.....!


TEN STARTED THE FIGHT .....!
.....
IT'LL BE MANGAN ...!
TOI-TOI OR HON-ITSU...? EITHER WAY, WHEN HE'S GOT FANPAI TON AND SHA
.....
SOME KIND OF TRICK?

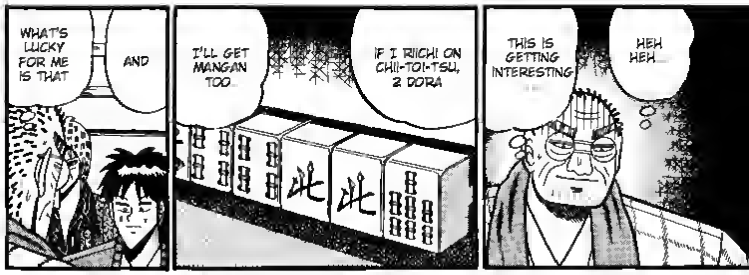



IT WON'T REACH MANGAN.
THIS CHII-TOI-TSU ISN'T TIED TO THE DORA.
BUT
SOGA WAS IN TENPAI!

5TH TURN, TEN
MY OPPONENT TEN WILL HAVE MANGAN
MY ODDS THERE AREN'T THAT GOOD.
WILL MEAN RELYING ON THE URA-DORA.
DECLARING RIICHI

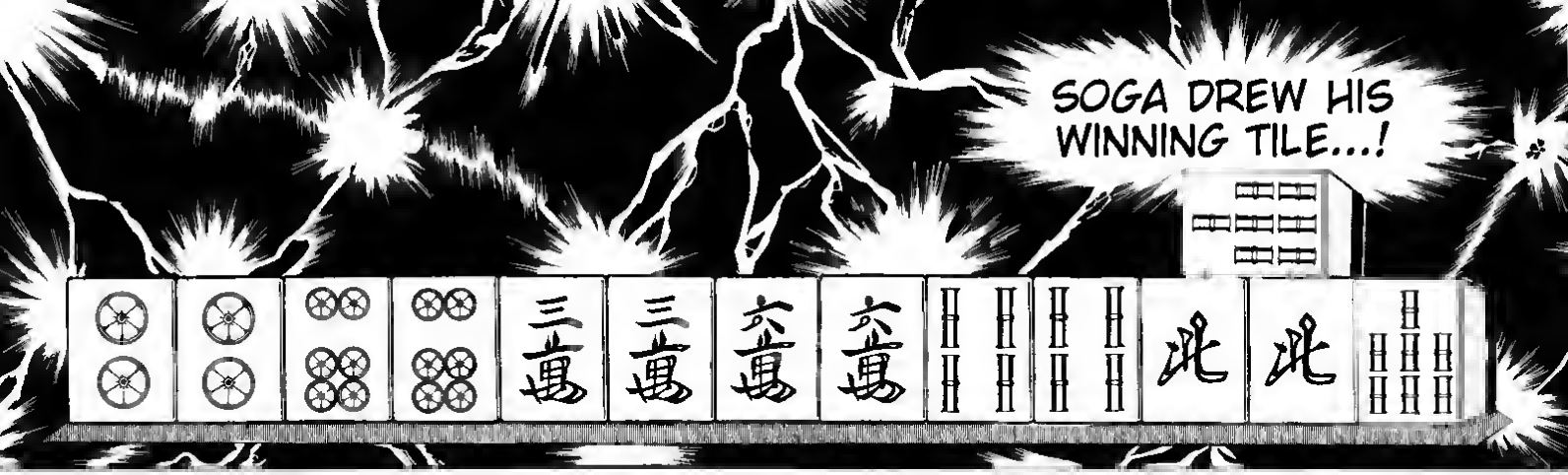

KAN ...!
THE NEW DORA IS 4-SOU!
THE NEW DORA IS 4-SOU!
URGH...
WHICH MEANS

2 DORA IN MY HAND ...!

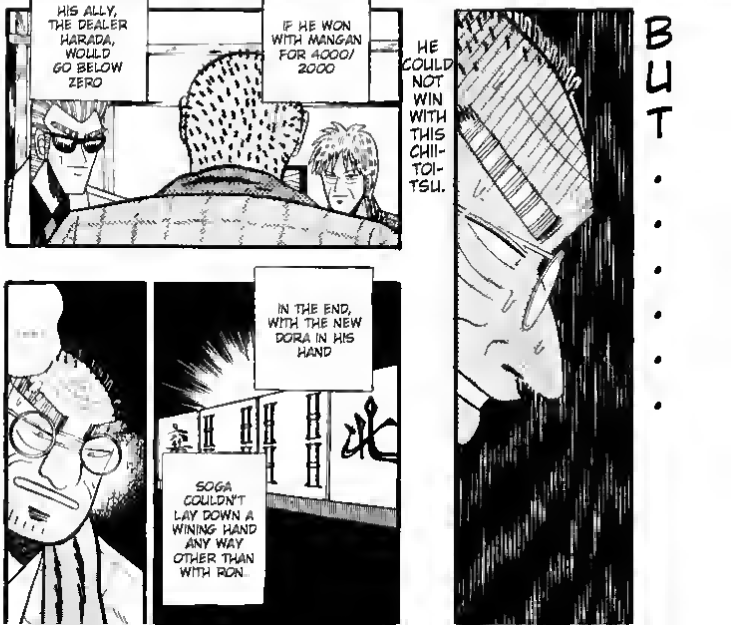

WHAT'S LUCKY FOR ME IS THAT
AND
I'LL GET MANGAN TOO
IF I RIICH! ON CHII-TOI-TSU, 2 DORA
THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING
HEH HEH

THE SITUATION AT THE TABLE WILL CHANGE DRASTICALLY.
IN SHORT, IN TWO TURNS
AKAGI IS GOING TO SWITCH WITH HIROYUKI
RIGHT NOW
AND NEXT TURN, HIROYUKI WILL SWITCH WITH TEN

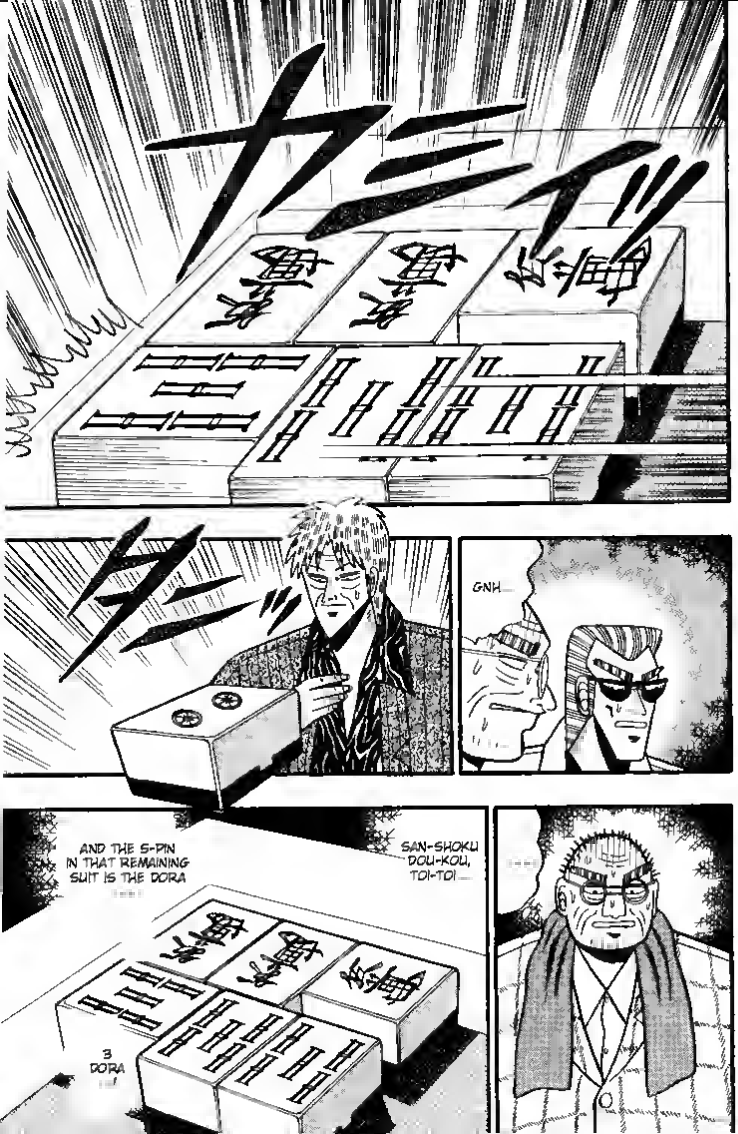
TEN MAY HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD THIS MATCH...
HEH HEH HEH...
TEN WILL BE GONE FROM THE TABLE...!
BEING FORCED TO SWITCH WITH HIROYUKI IS JUST BAD LUCK!
BUT NOW
HE SWITCHED WITH HIROYUKI
RIGHT AFTER TEN DISCARDED A TILE
7TH TURN
BUT...
IVE GOT THIS ROUND...!
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF GAME HE'LL BE BRINGING; HIRO'S PLAYING WITH A PIDDLING 3000 POINTS LEFT
HEH HEH
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR.
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO THE END HE'LL FOLD
A PASSING CHANCE... IN THE FLOW OF THE GAME BETWEEN EAST AND WEST...
AN UNTHINKABLE DEVELOPMENT HAPPENED HERE


SOGA DREW HIS WINNING TILE...!

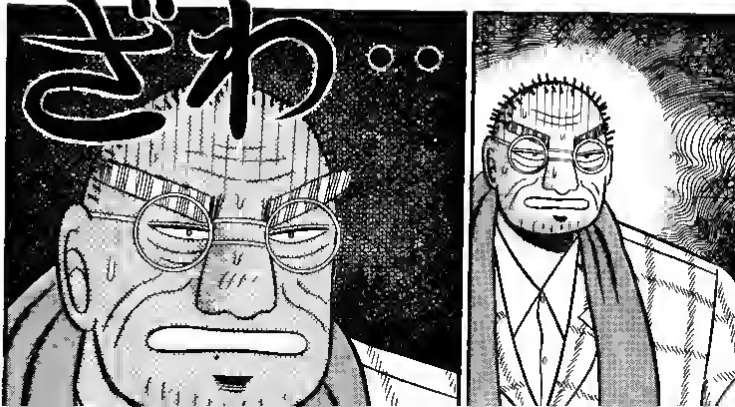
HAVING TO ESCAPE FROM A COMPLETED HAND IS THE WORST SITUATION TO BE IN...
NOW I CAN'T TELL HOW THIS ROUND WILL END UP AGAIN...
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, BUT...
CH'—
AND AS IF HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR THAT CHANCE
SOGA BROKE UP HIS WINNING HAND
HEH HEH HEH


HIS ALLY, THE DEALER HARADA, WOULD GO BELOW ZERO
IF HE WON WITH MANGAN FOR 4000/2000
HE COULD NOT WIN WITH THIS CHII-TOI-TSU.
BUT.....
IN THE END, WITH THE NEW DORA IN HIS HAND
SOGA COULDN'T LAY DOWN A WINING HAND ANY WAY OTHER THAN WITH RON...

PON ...!
AKAGI MOVED ...!
HEH HEH...
HUH...?
PON ...!
11TH TURN


GNH...
AND THE 5-PIN IN THAT REMAINING SUIT IS THE DORA
SAN-SHOKU DOU-KOU, TOI-TOI
3 DORA

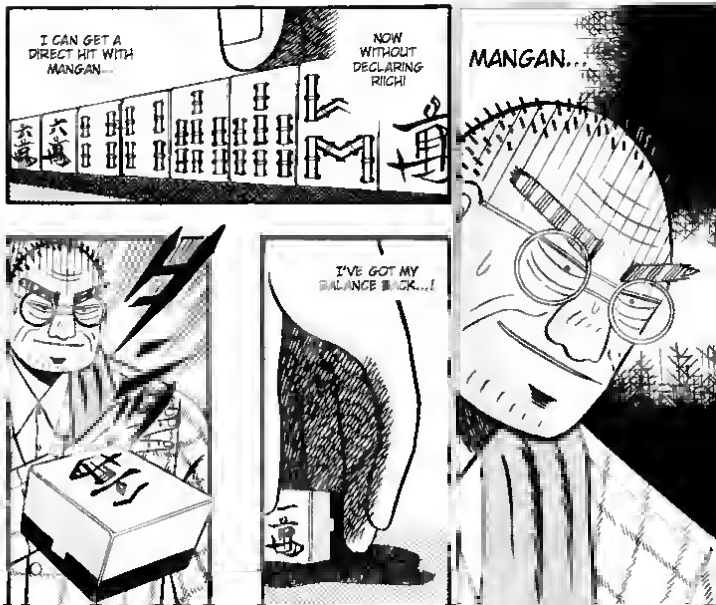
BAIMAN ...!
IF IT'S CONNECTED TO TAN-YAO ...


ざわ・・

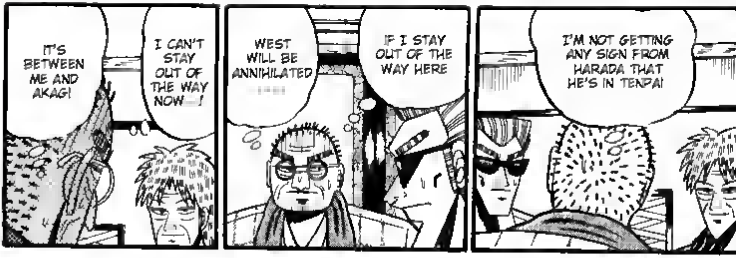
ざわ・・ざわ・・・
HE'S NOT GOING TO GO DOWN QUIETLY ...
WITH 5000 POINTS LEFT
EVEN THOUGH THE ROPE'S TIGHTENING AROUND HIS NECK
CH'...
GOOD...!
DREW THE 8-SOU...!
I CAN ADD TAN-YAO...!
WITH THIS 8-SOU DRAW

CHII-TOI-TSU, 2 DORA, TAN-YAO...!

AKAGI..!
I'LL STRIKE YOU OUT...!
I'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK
HE'S NOT GOING TO SCARE ME, EVEN WITH A BAIMAN HAND
HANGING ONTO THESE POINTS SO MUCH THAT THEY'RE GOING TO ROT
HE'S BEEN GETTING IN MY FACE ALL ALONG.
PLAYING WITH PRETENSIONS OF BEING A GENIUS


I CAN GET A DIRECT HIT WITH MANGAN...
NOW WITHOUT DECLARING RIICHI
I'VE GOT MY BALANCE BACK...!
MANGAN...

I'LL FIGHT ...!

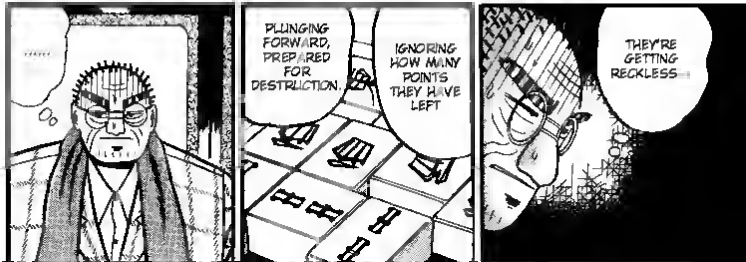

IT'S BETWEEN ME AND AKAGI
I CAN'T STAY OUT OF THE WAY NOW...!
WEST WILL BE ANNIHILATED
IF I STAY OUT OF THE WAY HERE
I'M NOT GETTING ANY SIGN FROM HARADA THAT HE'S IN TENPAI

PON...!
BUT NEXT TURN

ドドド
カシャッ
HUH...?
ざわ・
ざわ
.....

THREE OPEN GROUPS ...?
ざわ...
THIS GUY...
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT
AFTER GETTING THIS FAR, HE'S IN TENPAI
HIRO'S BRINGING ON THE FIGHT, TOO

THESE GUYS, ALL TOGETHER

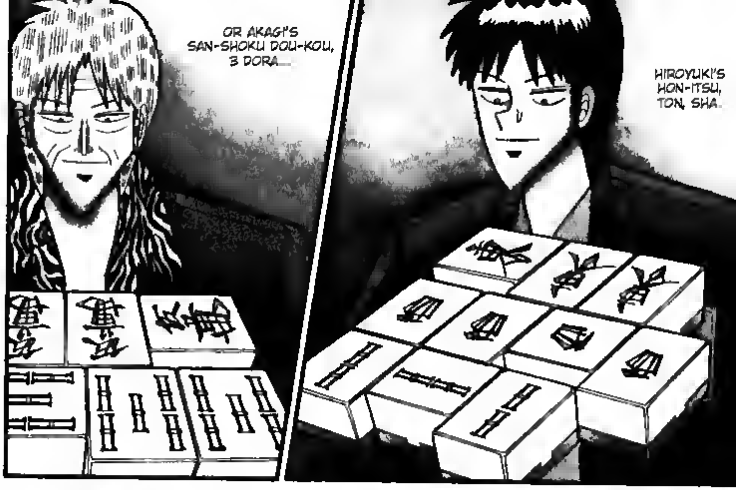

.....
PLUNGING FORWARD, PREPARED FOR DESTRUCTION.
IGNORING HOW MANY POINTS THEY HAVE LEFT
THEY'RE GETTING RECKLESS...

HEH HEH...
I SEE, NOW ISN'T THIS INTERESTING?
IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO DIE, I'LL STRIKE YOU DOWN.
OH REALLY
AND AKAGI WITH 5000 LEFT
IF EITHER ONE OF YOU FOOLS DEALS IN, THEY'RE DEAD.
HIRO WITH HIS 3000 POINTS LEFT
BUT
I WON'T DIE.
EVEN IF I DEAL IN
BLOOD WILL JUST FLOW...
IF YOU'RE READY, THEN BRING IT ON.

FROM BEHIND YOUR BACKS ...!
I'LL STRIKE YOU DOWN ...!

CHAPTER 77
BLOSSOMING

ざわ…
ざわ…
IF I STRIKE EITHER OF THEM OUT THAT WILL SETTLE THAT
WITH THIS AGAINST AKAGI AND HIROYUKI WHO ARE BOTH STILL TRYING TO WIN
THIS IS MY HAND, CHII-TOI-TSU, TAN-YAO AND INCLUDING THE DORA.
BUT
HIROYUKI WITH 3000 OR AKAGI WITH 5000 WILL GO BELOW ZERO!
IS THE BEST CHANCE TO DETERMINE WHO WILL BE THE FINAL FOUR PEOPLE AT THE TABLE
THIS ROUND
IS IT FINALLY TIME TO SETTLE THIS?
カッ!!


OR AKAGI'S SAN-SHOKU DOU-KOU, 3 DORA...
HIROYUKI'S HON-ITSU, TON, SHA.

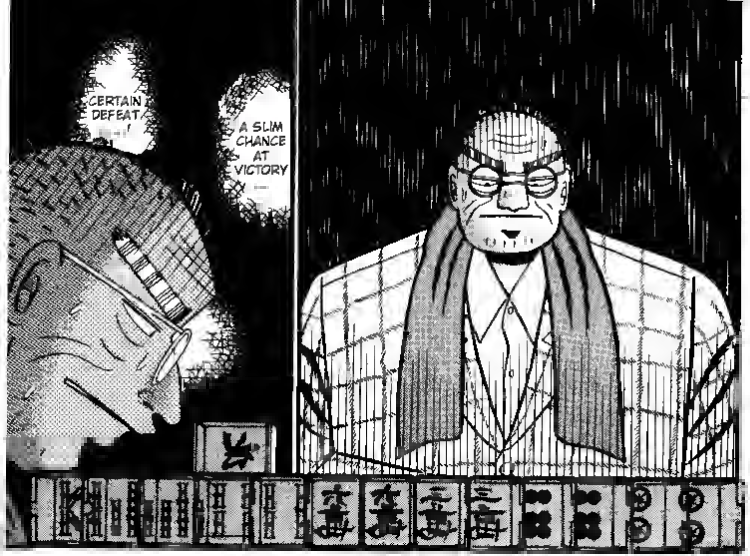
HE'LL GO BELOW ZERO...
HARADA WHO IS IN THE DEALER'S SEAT WITH 4000 POINTS LEFT WILL BE GONE

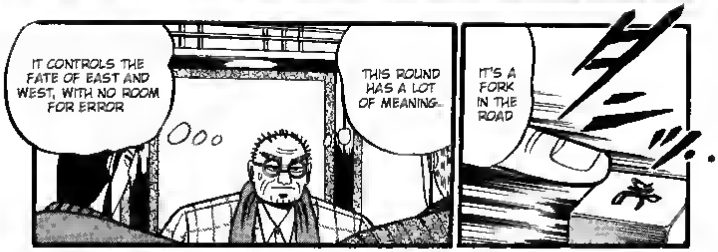
EVEN IF THEY DRAW THEIR OWN WINNING TILE
IF EITHER OF THEM GETS A WIN FROM HARADA OR

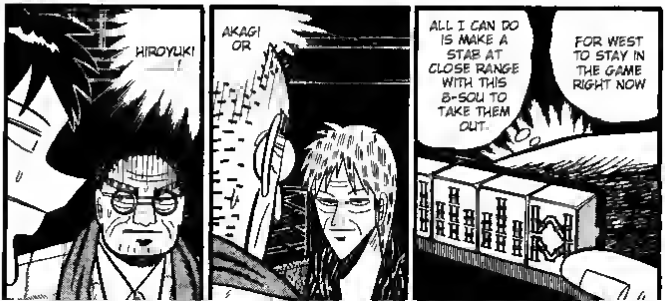
BEING SURROUNDED BY THOSE THREE IS
EVEN FOR ME

IT WILL BE TEN, AKAGI, HIROYUKI AND MYSELF AROUND THE FINAL TABLE...

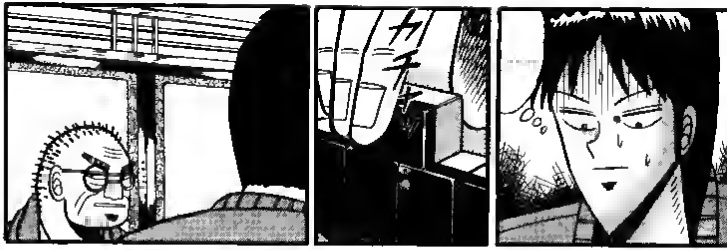
IF HARADA FALLS...


CERTAIN DEFEAT
A SLIM CHANCE AT VICTORY


IT CONTROLS THE FATE OF EAST AND WEST, WITH NO ROOM FOR ERROR
THIS ROUND HAS A LOT OF MEANING...
IT'S A FORK IN THE ROAD


HIROYUKI
AKAGI OR
ALL I CAN DO IS MAKE A STAB AT CLOSE RANGE WITH THIS 8-SOU TO TAKE THEM OUT.
FOR WEST TO STAY IN THE GAME RIGHT NOW

15TH TURN, HIROYUKI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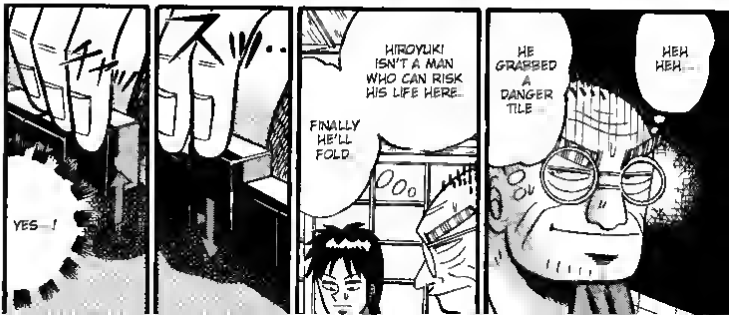
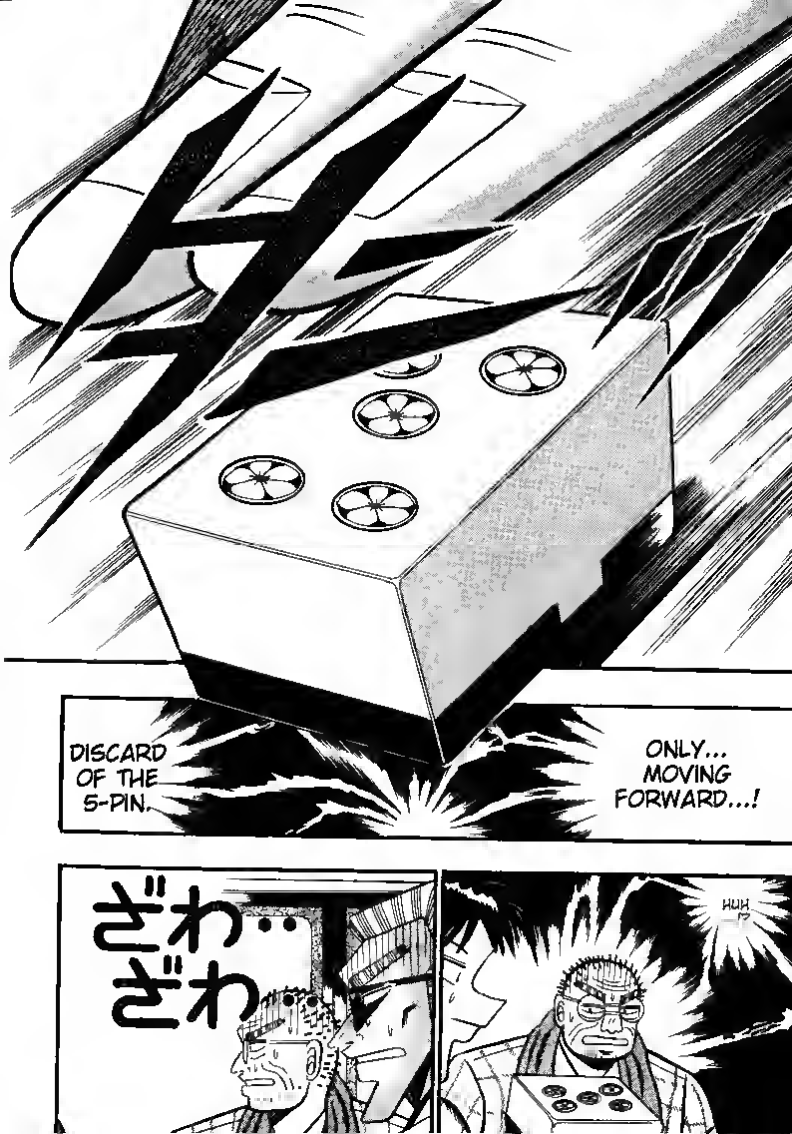

HEH HEH...
HE GRABBED A DANGER TILE...
HIROYUKI ISN'T A MAN WHO CAN RISK HIS LIFE HERE...
FINALLY HE'LL FOLD...
チガッ
スッ..
YES...!

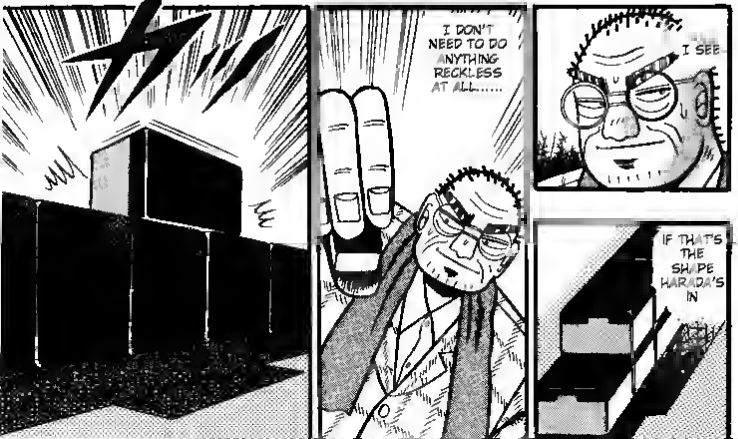
THE ONLY ONE LEFT IS AKAGI.
IT'S DOWN TO A RACE BETWEEN US TWO —!
HE MOVED IT INTO HIS HAND —!
NOW THAT HE'S "FOLDED" HIROYUKI IS OUT.
...
WILL IT BE MY CHII-TOI-TSU OR AKAGI'S SAN-SHOKU DOU-KOU —?
UNTHINKABLE
AS FAR AS THIS ROUND GOES, THE IDEA OF FOLDING WITH THIS HAND WAS
AT THIS TIME, HIROYUKI WASN'T FOLDING.
NO ...!

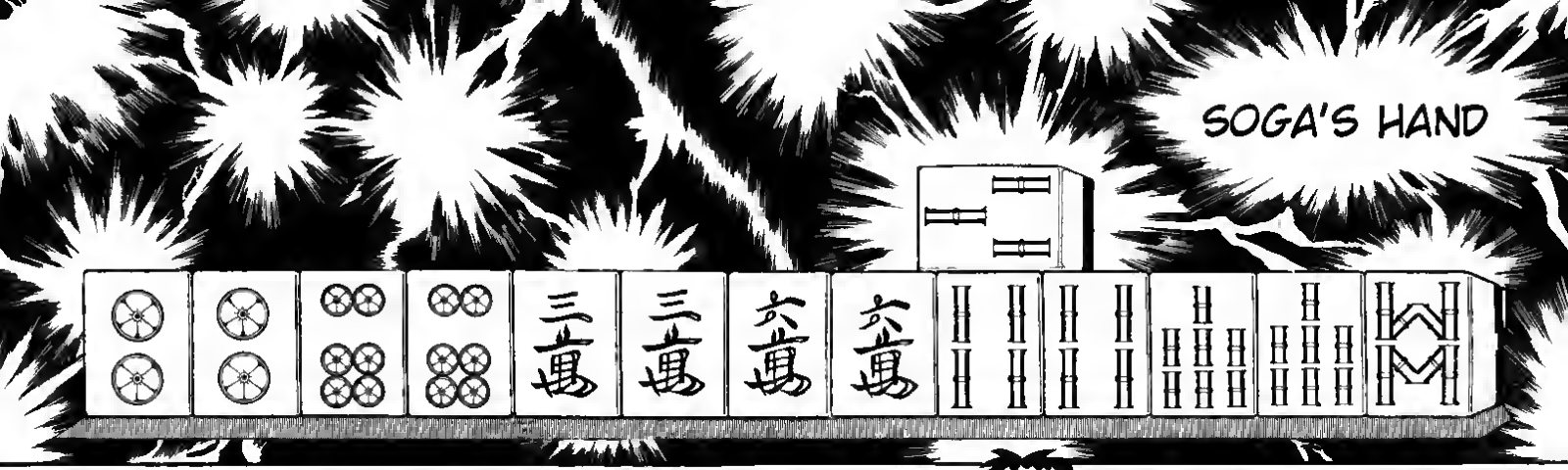

ドン
DISCARD OF THE 5-PIN.
ONLY... MOVING FORWARD...!
ざわ..
ざわ
HUH
!?

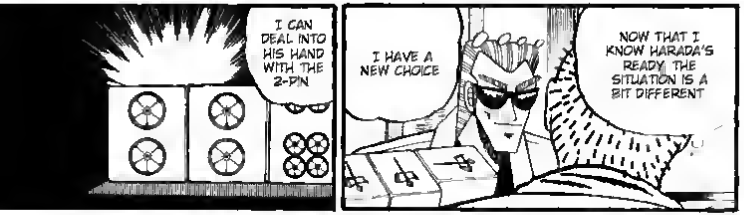
ごわ
.....
FINALLY GETTING DEFIANT AT THE LAST MINUTE.....?
SOMETHING THAT HIROYUKI WOULDN'T HAVE CONSIDERED SO FAR
A DISCARD OF THE 5-PIN IS
IN THE FINAL STAGES OF THE GAME, EVEN WITH THE FEELING THAT HARADA HAS PINZU HON-ITSU
WHAT A PAIN...
CH!...
HE DREW THE 4-SOU
PROBABLY WITH THIS KIND OF HAND
AND DISCARDED THE 5-PIN HE HADN'T TOTALLY GOTTEN RID OF!
TO MAKE TENPAI FOR A DOUBLE PAIR SOUZU WAIT

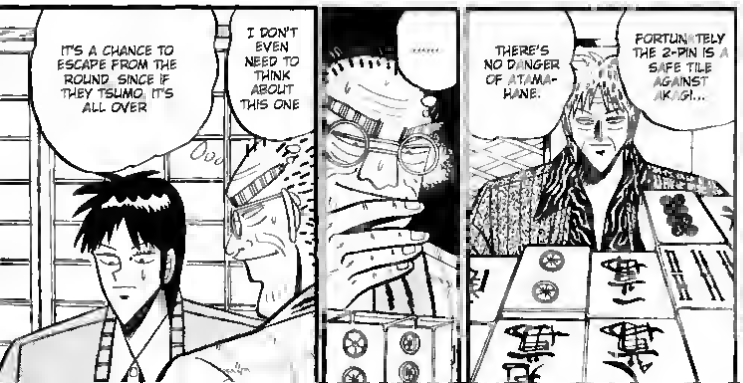
DISCARDING THE 5-PIN HERE MEANS HE'S STILL IN THE GAME
NO MATTER WHAT HE DRAWS HE WON'T FOLD
FIGHTING DESPERATELY
IN A DECISIVE GAME LIKE THIS
THIS SORT OF FRANTIC ACTION
A BAD FLOW
OFTEN TURNS OUT TO BE EFFECTIVE
PON ...!
I'M READY ...!
SOGA
HUH ...?

IT WON'T REACH MANGAN
MY HAND IS HON-ITSU CHUN
CLOSED WAIT ON 2-PIN

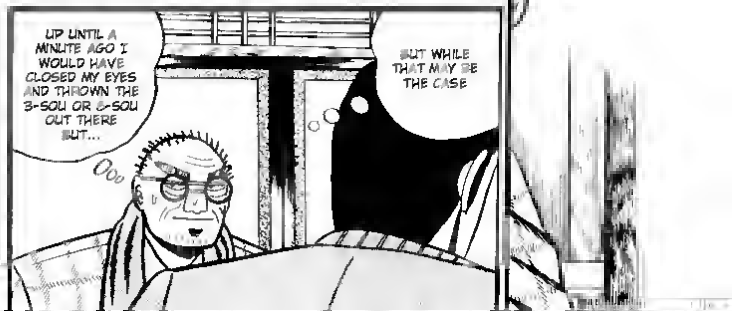

I DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING RECKLESS AT ALL.....
I SEE
IF THAT'S THE SHAPE HARADA'S IN


SOGA'S HAND


I CAN DEAL INTO HIS HAND WITH THE 2-PIN
I HAVE A NEW CHOICE
NOW THAT I KNOW HARADA'S READY, THE SITUATION IS A BIT DIFFERENT


IT'S A CHANCE TO ESCAPE FROM THE ROUND, SINCE IF THEY TSUMO, IT'S ALL OVER
I DON'T EVEN NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS ONE
.....
THERE'S NO DANGER OF ATAMA-HANE.
FORTUNATELY THE 2-PIN IS A SAFE TILE AGAINST AKAGI...

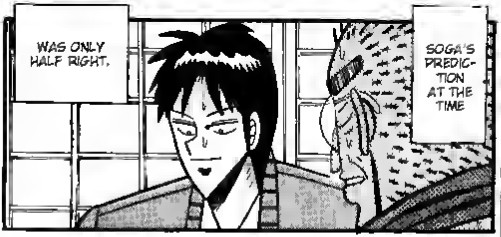
AGAINST HIROYUKI'S HON-ITSU, IT'S A VERY DANGEROUS TILE.
AFTER THAT 5-PIN DISCARD, I COULD BE PLAYING RIGHT INTO HIS HAND.
IF I WANT TO KEEP FIGHTING, 3-SOU OR 8-SOU, BUT

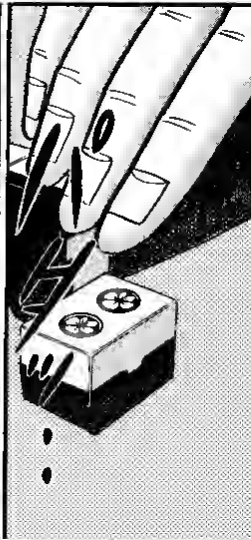

UP UNTIL A MINUTE AGO I WOULD HAVE CLOSED MY EYES AND THROWN THE 3-SOU OR 8-SOU OUT THERE BUT...
BUT WHILE THAT MAY BE THE CASE

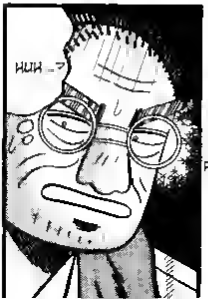
LET'S PUT THIS OUT THERE.
SHOULD BE GOOD .....
IT'LL FLOW TO THE RIGHT DESTINA-TION.
NOT HASTY AT ALL.
SOGA DEALT INTO HARADA'S HAND ON PURPOSE.
BUT IN THAT INSTANT
R..
RON...!

WHAT THE HELL——?
WH...
HUH...?
AN IRREGULAR PROCESS
NORMALLY A MOVE LIKE THAT IS UNTHINKABLE
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
HE WENT RON OFF THIS TILE
AT THE VERY END, THIS KIND OF SHAPE
PLAYED THE 5-PIN
AND HE DREW THE 2-PIN HERE.
PROBABLY HIS HAND WAS LIKE THIS
THAT 5-PIN, THE DORA, WAS USED AS BAIT... BAIT TO LURE OUT THE WINNING TILE.
PLAYING THE 5-PIN AT THE LAST MINUTE WITHOUT REGARD FOR DANGER
HIS FINAL HAND IS TON, SHA, TOI-TOI, A MANGAN HAND...
SINCE WHEN DO YOU PLAY LIKE THAT...?
YOU LITTLE SHIT .....

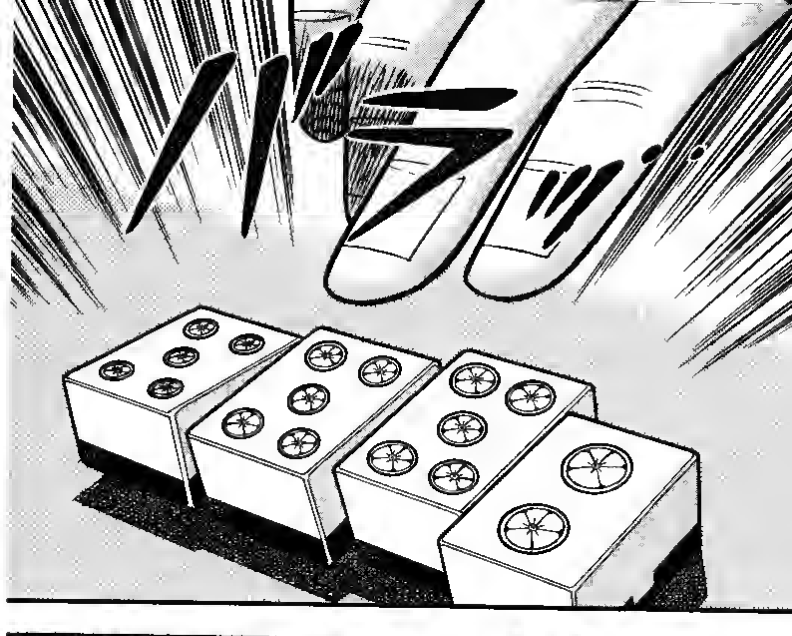
NO ...!


SOGA'S PREDIC-TION AT THE TIME
WAS ONLY HALF RIGHT.




HUH ...?

IT WAS FAR MORE POINTS
WAS FAR BEYOND WHAT HARADA IMAGINED
THE REMAINING HALF THAT WASN'T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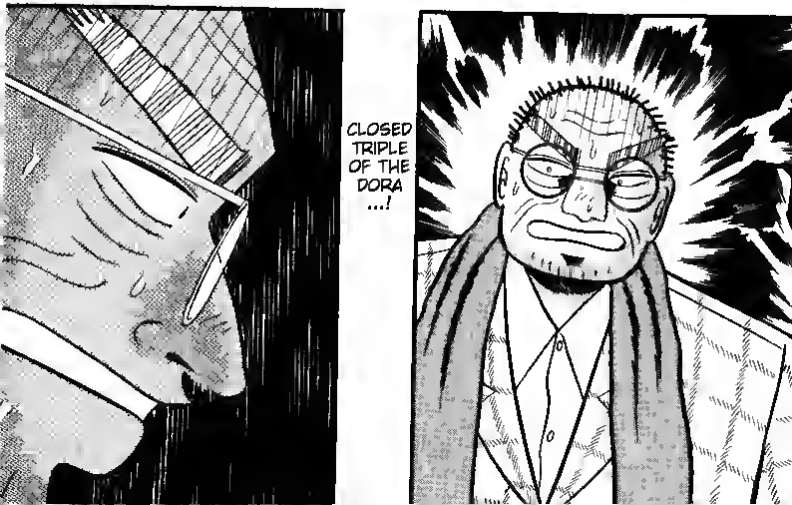
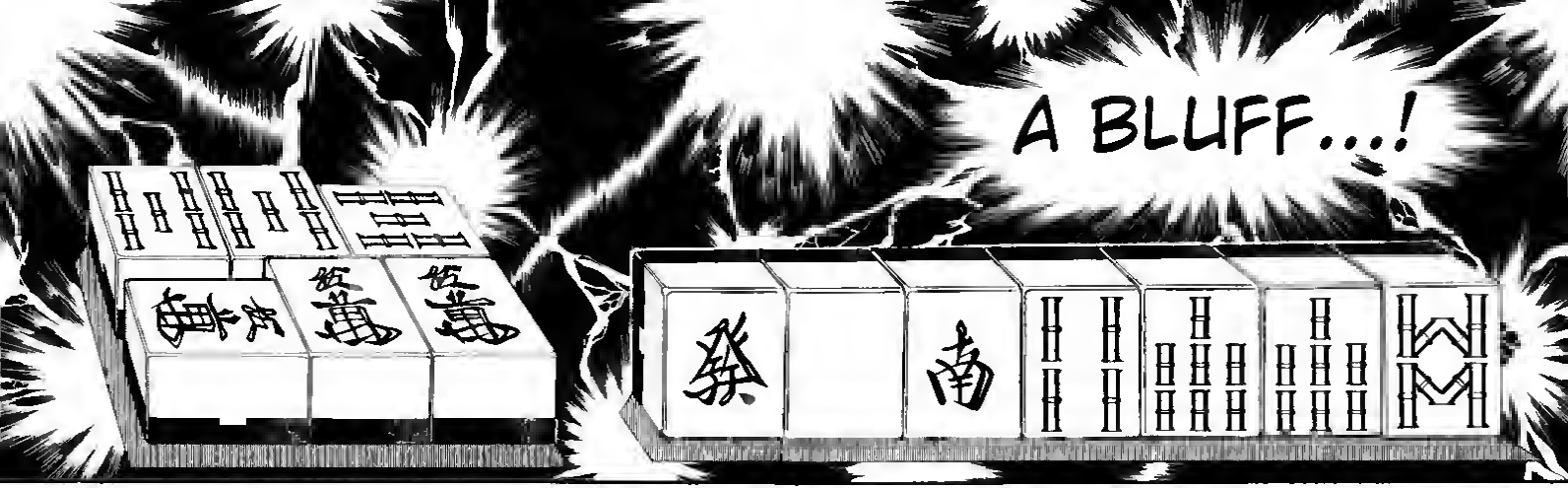

CLOSED TRIPLE OF THE DORA ...!

HANEMAN ...!
TON, SHA, TOI-TOI, 3 DORA .....!
HIRO HAD THIS SHAPE IN HIS HAND AT FIRST...
HE WAITED
WITHOUT CALLING KAN
DARING TO HOLD FOUR OF THE DORA
A SINGLE WAIT...
AIMING FOR THE MOST EFFECTIVE WIN.
YES...
DID HE...
...WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON ...?
THAT'S CRAZY

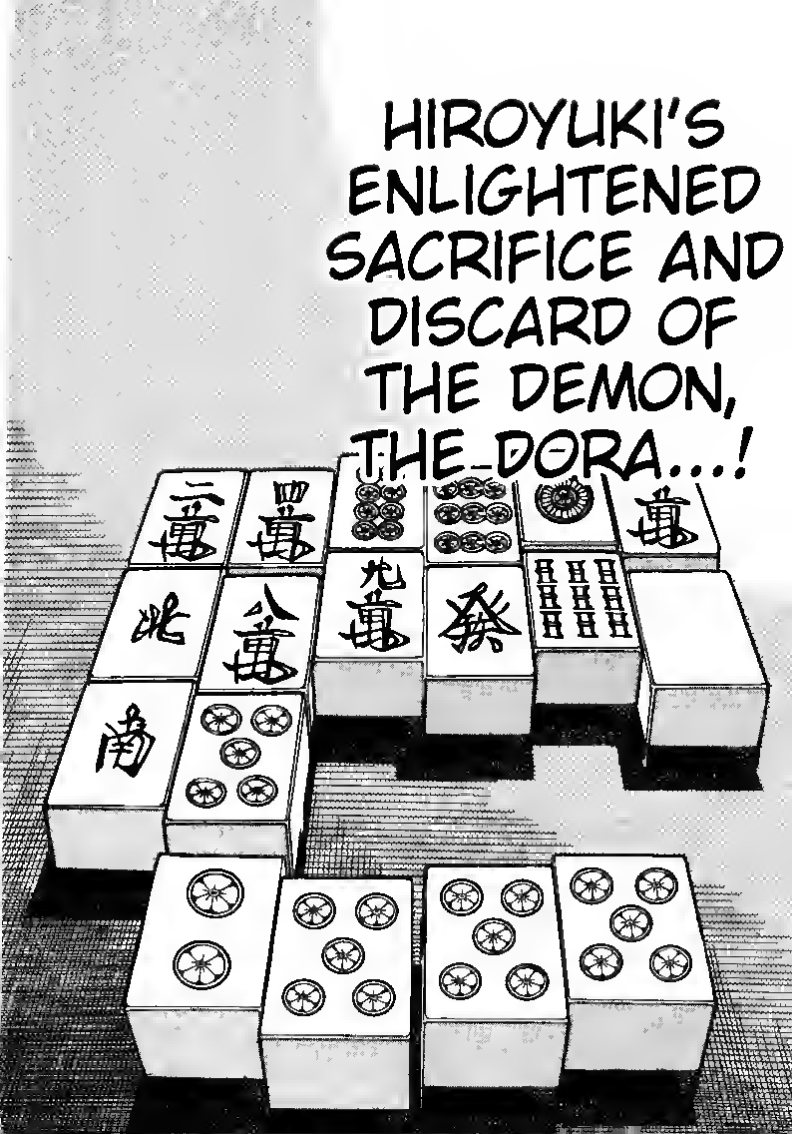
SO HIROYUKI, WHO HAD BEEN PRETENDING TO HAVE SOUZU HON-ITSU, HELD ONTO THAT WAIT FOR THE TIME BEING.
BY THE 15TH TURN THERE WERE ALREADY FEW CHANCES LEFT.
HIROYUKI DECIDED TO WAIT ON THAT 2-PIN.
WHEN HE DREW THE 2-PIN
PLAYING THE 5-PIN
AND RELEASED ONE OF THE DORA
THE 2-PIN HE KEPT
IT BECAME CAMOU-FLAGE AS BEFORE
BUT IT PASSED
OF COURSE IF HE HAD BEEN UNLUCKY, HE WOULD HAVE DIED THERE
THIS PLAYING STYLE IS
THIS IS
WOULD PROBABLY COME OUT WITHOUT A SINGLE PRECAUTION

AKAGI SHIGERU .....!
IT'S AS IF IT TRANSFERRED STRAIGHT FROM AKAGI TO HIROYUKI
IT'S AKAGI SHIGERU'S EXACT PLAYING STYLE
PROBABLY IN AKAGI'S HAND
THE ANSWER IS
.....
WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF LIKE THAT, AFTER COMING THIS FAR...
WHY WAS HIROYUKI, WHO'S BEEN SO CAREFUL
AFTER GETTING THIS FAR, I'M SURE OF IT.
AKAGI'S HAND


A BLUFF...!

THE MOST ABOUT AKAGI SHIGERU'S NATURE AND MENTALITY...
IT TOLD HIM...
THAT AMOUNT OF EFFORT MADE AN IMPRESSION ON HIROYUKI
THERE WAS NO WAY HIROYUKI WOULD FOLD HE'D HAVE BEEN WILLING TO DIE FOR THAT HAND.
WHEN HE REALIZED THAT SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION AKAGI HAD
HIROYUKI
MIGHT BE CHANGING NOW...
THIS IS BAD...

DRIVING HIM DEEPER INTO A CORNER.
A SINGLE CALL DECREASES THE CHOICES FOR HIS HAND
IN A SITUATION LIKE THAT
RIGHT NOW AKAGI HAS 5000 POINTS LEFT
CALLING ON TILES IS AN ACTION THAT INCREASES THE DANGER HE'S IN.
UNDERMINING HIMSELF.
IT WAS ONLY TO SUPPORT HIROYUKI'S WIN.
BUT AKAGI WAS DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
THERE WASN'T THE FEELING HE WAS GOING TO WIN.
WHICH MEANS THAT IT'S STILL FINE
DESPITE THAT, BEING IN THAT CORNER IS SO THAT HE CAN WIN.


HIROYUKI'S ENLIGHTENED SACRIFICE AND DISCARD OF THE DEMON, THE DORA...!

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CHAPTER 78
PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY

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ざわ・・・
THE SHOWDOWN OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE
THE OTHER FOUR ARE BELOW 10000 POINTS
EXCEPT FOR TEN
THE POINTS OF THE FIVE PEOPLE LEFT ARE LIKE SO
NAME
POINTS
TOTAL
EAST
TEN
16000
24000
AKAGI
5000
HIROYUKI
3000
WEST
13000
HARADA
4000
SOGA
9000
HIROYUKI WON WITH TON, SHA, TOI-TOI, 3 DORA
8TH HAN-CHAN, EAST 2ND ROUND
CONFUSION DEEPENED
A BATTLE WITH THEIR BACKS TO THE WALL
THE END OF THE GAME
THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THEIR DEFEAT WOULD BE CERTAIN IN THAT INSTANT
IT WOULD BE OVER FOR WHOEVER DEALT IN NEXT
SOGA, WHO HAD 21000, WENT IN AN INSTANT DOWN TO 9000.
BELOW 10000 POINTS
THIS HANEMAN WAS A DIRECT HIT ON SOGA

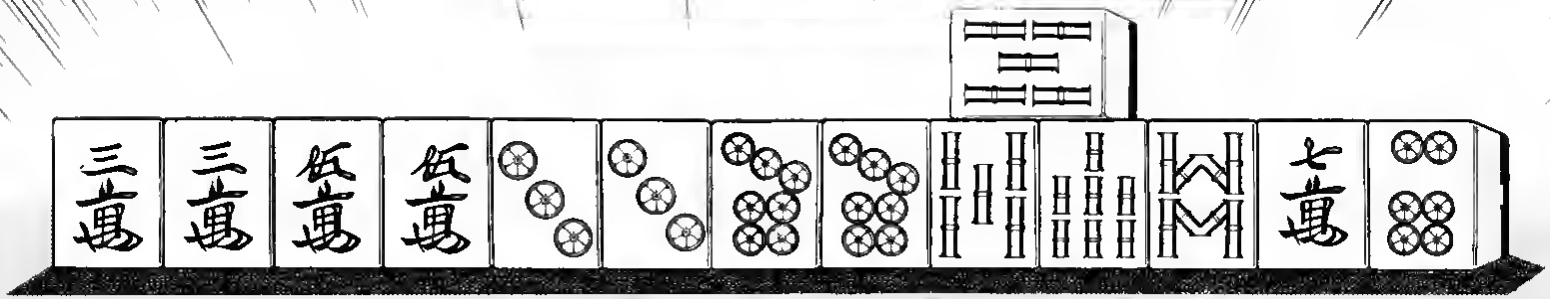
CH'...
THE DEALER, SOGA'S, HAND.
SOUTH 3RD ROUND, 4TH TURN
WINDS CHANGE.
AH WELL
5TH TURN
IT'S NOT TAKING SHAPE
A GARBAGE HAND

I GET THE FEELING I'LL HAVE MORE PAIRS THAN SEQUENCES.
IF I CAN CONNECT IT TO THE DORA, MANGAN TOO.
A REAL CHII-TOI-TSU.
CHII ...!
AFTER HIROYUKI CALLED NEXT TURN
AKAGI SWITCHED WITH TEN.
HE PLAYED THE DORA, PE! ...!

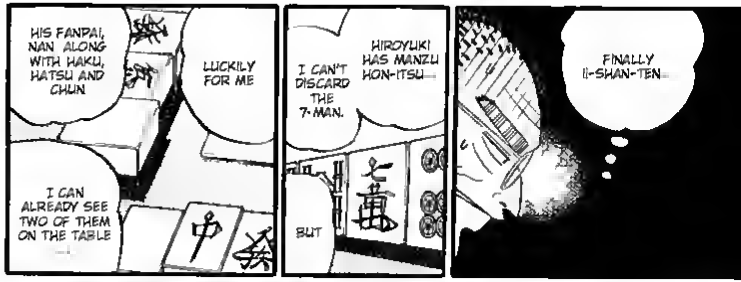
...
PON
...!
HIROYUKI'S GOT THE FLOW.
3 DORA AGAIN...
CH'...
GH...

HIROYUKI WOULDN'T HAVE PLAYED LIKE THIS A WHILE AGO
EVEN IF HE FELT HE HAD ANY KIND OF FLOW
HE'S GETTING BETTER
HIROYUKI'S DIFFERENT THAN HE WAS A WHILE AGO.
IT'S A FULL-ON HON-ITSU
NO DOUBTS FROM HIS DISCARDS.
I KNOW HE'S NOT UP TO ANY TRICKS
AT LEAST BY CALLING ON A DOUBLE-SIDED MANZU SET EARLY ON
HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ADVANCING TOWARDS CLOSED HAND, RICHI, PIN-FU, WITH THE PE! AS A CUSHION
THE DOUBLE-SIDED WAITS OF 4-5-SOU AND 2-3- SOU ARE LIVE IN HIS DISCARDS
THAT.....
THE MAN WHO PLAYS HOLDING ON TO SOME SAFE ARE.....
HE HATED PLAYING LIKE THAT.
IF HE WAS, DECREASING THE TILES IN HIS HAND WOULD ONLY INCREASE HIS RISK.
BAD FLOW...
SHIT ...
NOW IS COMPLETELY GONE.
AFTER THAT WIN IN THE EAST 2ND

SOGA'S HAND

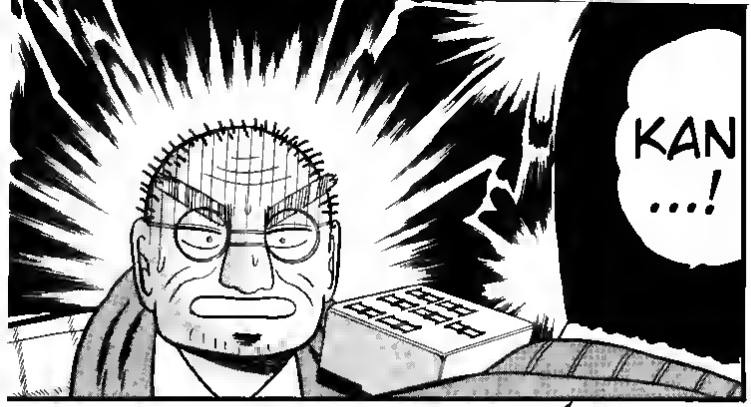


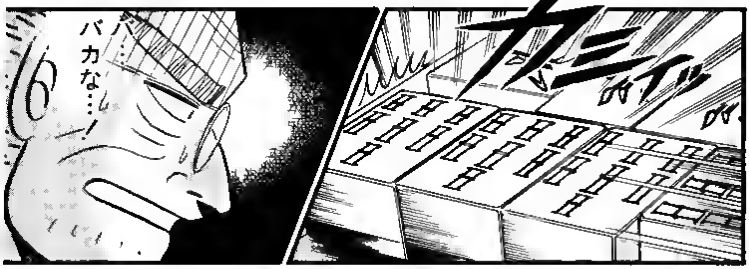
NGH...?
SOGA
HUH...?
THE PERSON WHO DISCARDED THE 4TH TILE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING ALL OF IT, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT
ざわ...
I JUST WANT TO CHECK ..... BEFORE I MOVE.
IF SOMEONE TSUMOS OFF THE DEAD WALL DRAW AFTER AN OPEN KAN MADE FROM A CLOSED TRIPLE

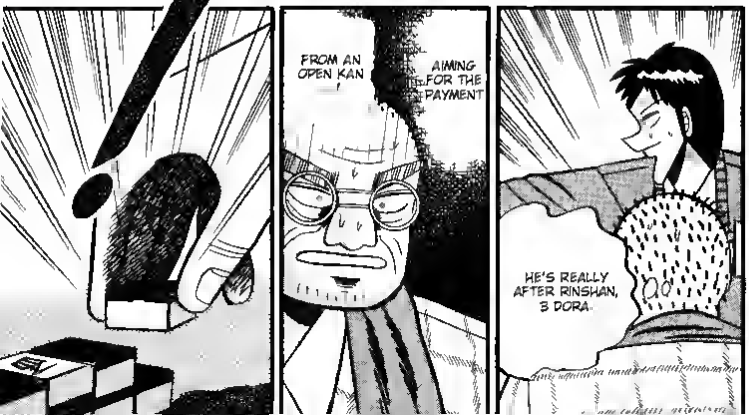

HIS FANPAI, NAN ALONG WITH HAKU, HATSU AND CHUN
LUCKILY FOR ME
I CAN ALREADY SEE TWO OF THEM ON THE TABLE
I CAN'T DISCARD THE 7-MAN.
HIROYUKI HAS MANZU HON-ITSU...
BUT
FINALLY II-SHAN-TEN...

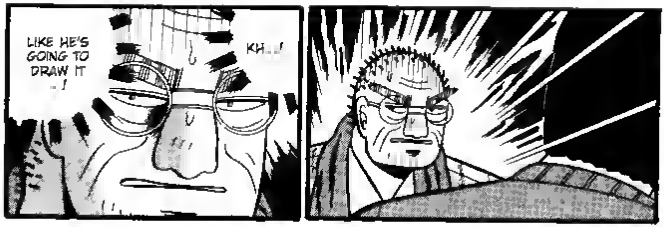
IT'S NO PROBLEM TO DISCARD ANY OF THEM...
OUT OF THE REMAINING 7-SOU, 8-SOU, OR 6-PIN
I'M SURE HE'S GOT A HON-ITSU.
IN SHORT, THE POSSIBILITY THAT ALL HE HAS IS YAKUHAI 3 DORA IS GONE
WHICH MEANS

DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO DUMB...
IF YOU KAN ON THE 7-SOU
YOUR HON-ITSU IS GONE
AFTER THAT, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, YOU CAN'T GET ANY YAKU...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT'S A SUICIDAL ACT
KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR OWN INTERESTS
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D PLAY LIKE THAT
EVEN THOUGH YOU GRABBED A CHANCE AT GETTING THREE DORA
YOU'RE NOT GONNA MAKE A RIDICULOUS GRAB FOR IT LIKE THAT...!
HEH HEH...
.....
バラッ・・・


KAN ...!

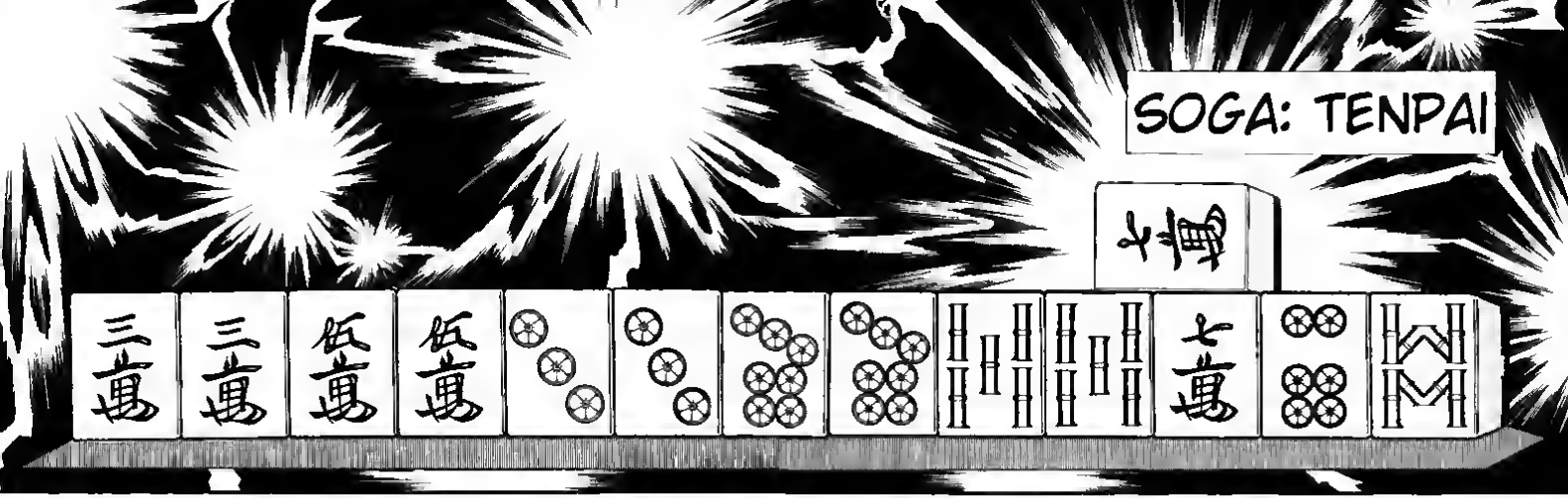

バ…
バカな…!
カニ

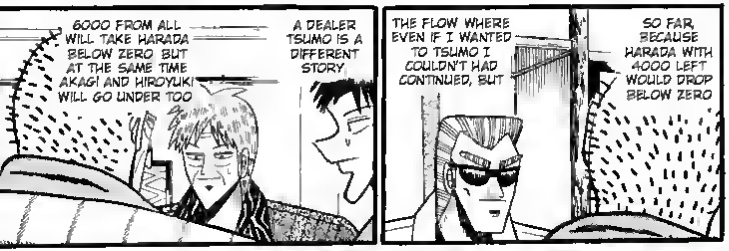

FROM AN OPEN KAN
AIMING FOR THE PAYMENT
HE'S REALLY AFTER RINSHAN, 3 DORA


LIKE HE'S GOING TO DRAW IT..!
KH...!

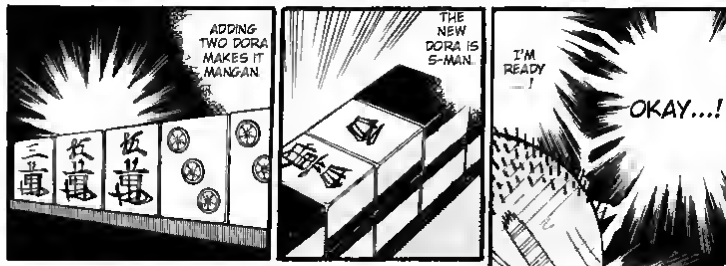
HE'S MAD TO THINK HE CAN DRAW IT.

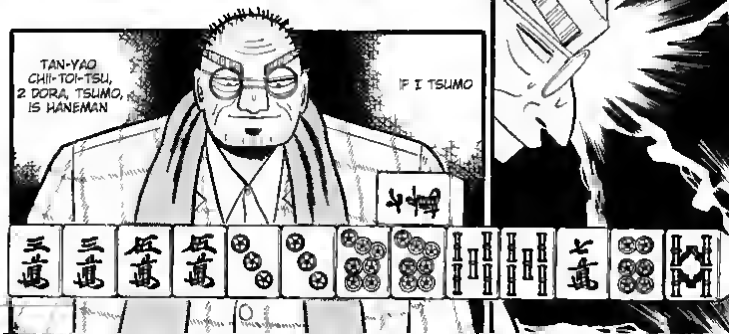
ざわ..
ざわ..
PHEW
HMPH...
YOU'RE ONLY HOLDING FOUR TILES.
HOLDING A SHAPE THAT CAN'T WIN.
YOUR SITUATION GETS A LOT WORSE.
AND WHEN YOU CAN'T
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DRAW IT THAT EASILY.
OF COURSE ....
ALL YOU CAN DO IS TREMBLE ...!
THE PENALTY FOR THAT MADNESS...
ALL YOU CAN DO IS TRY TO SURVIVE FOR THE TURNS LEFT, WHILE HOLDING THOSE FOUR TILES.


SOGA: TENPAI


6000 FROM ALL WILL TAKE HARADA BELOW ZERO BUT AT THE SAME TIME AKAGI AND HIROYUKI WILL GO UNDER TOO
A DEALER TSUMO IS A DIFFERENT STORY.
THE FLOW WHERE EVEN IF I WANTED TO TSUMO I COULDN'T HAD CONTINUED, BUT
SO FAR, BECAUSE HARADA WITH 4000 LEFT WOULD DROP BELOW ZERO

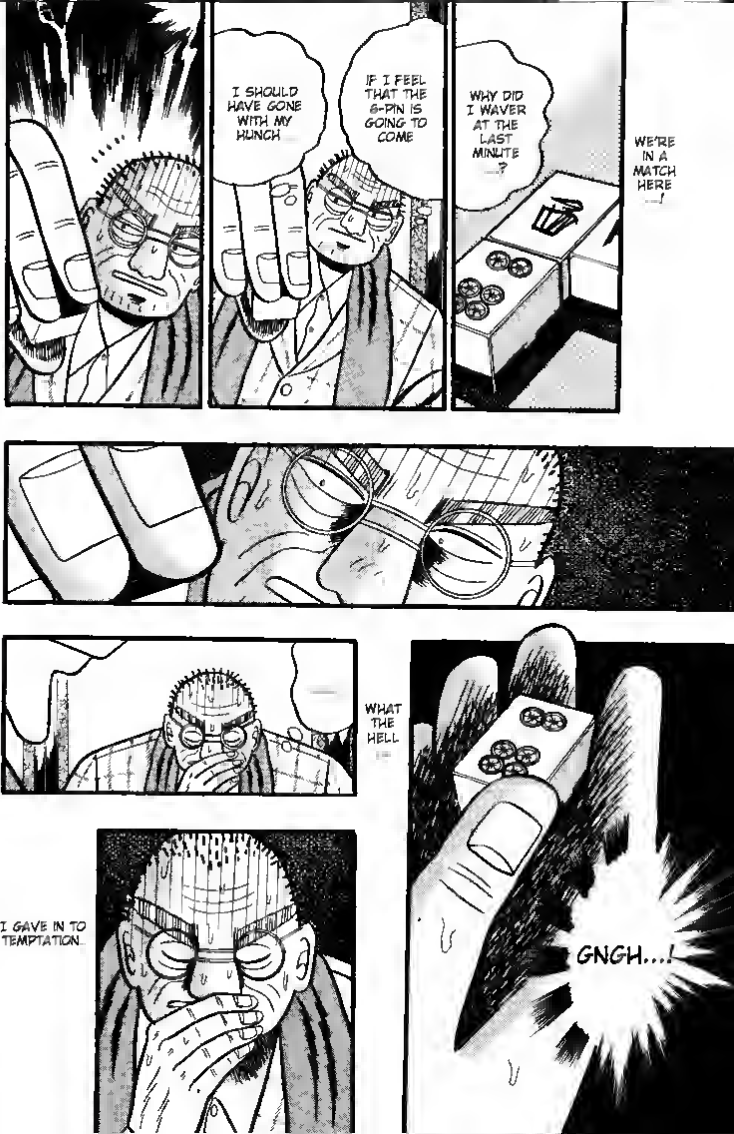
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE IT WAS POSSIBLE TO TSUMO OR RON...
AND I CAN WIN BY TSUMO THIS ROUND TOO.
AND WHEN I'M READY, IT'S CLEAR THAT HIROYUKI, WHO IS OF LESSER NATURAL ABILITY, WILL BE OUT.
I'M READY AGAIN, NATURALLY.


ADDING TWO DORA MAKES IT MANGAN
THE NEW DORA IS 5-MAN.
I'M READY...!
OKAY...!


TAN-YAO CHII-TOI-TSU, 2 DORA, TSUMO, IS HANEMAN
IF I TSUMO

NOW, WHICH ONE DO I DISCARD...?
KEEP 6-PIN, DISCARD 8-SOU
THE 6-PIN FEELS LIKE IT MIGHT COME UP
8-SOU OR 6-PIN...?
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE 8-SOU ON THE TABLE, IS THERE?
IT'S A LIVE TILE!
NO, WAIT
AN OPEN KAN!
IS AIMING FOR THAT AGAIN...?
HE...
COULD IT BE
IT HASN'T BEEN DISCARDED YET.
EVEN THOUGH THE 8-SOU WOULD COME OUT EASILY AFTER SEEING THAT HE'S USING FOUR OF THE 7-SOU

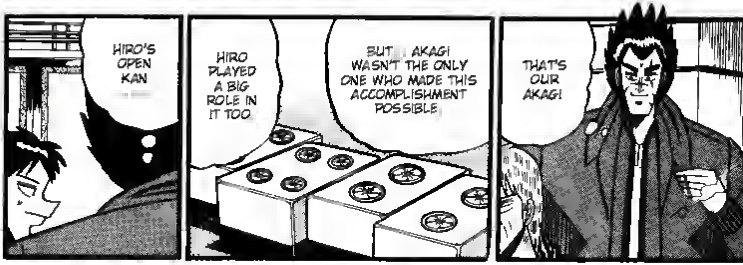
IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE BUT
SOMETHING FEELS WRONG HERE...
CH'
SOGA WAITS ON THE 8-SOU...!
YOU LITTLE SHIT.....!
NO...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
I'M OVER-THINKING IT...
THAT WAS CRAZY OF ME...
WHAT AM I DOING?
EVEN WITH THE NEW DORA, ALL HE'S GOT IS MANGAN.
IF I DEAL INTO THAT, IT'S 8000 POINTS
WITH MY 9000, I'LL SURVIVE.


I SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH MY HUNCH
IF I FEEL THAT THE 6-PIN IS GOING TO COME
WHY DID I WAVER AT THE LAST MINUTE ...?
WE'RE IN A MATCH HERE ...!
WHAT THE HELL ...
I GAVE IN TO TEMPTATION...
GNGH...!

HIT BY THAT BRAT'S INTENSITY...!
SHIT...!
AT THIS POINT IN TIME, SOGA WAS FINISHED THIS ROUND.
THIS BACKFIRE HURT.
A VITAL BLOW
2 TURNS LATER
SOGA DREW AND DISCARDED THE 2-PIN
ALL THAT WAS IN HIS HEAD WAS KEEPING HIS TENPAI
THE BLOW MADE HIM LOSE HIS ABILITY TO FOCUS.
THAT WEAK POINT
WAS NOT MISSED.
RON...!

TAN-YAO, SAN-SHOKU, 1 DORA...!
URGH...!
AKAGI WON.
MANGAN...
FOR SOGA
THE 8-SOU THAT HE ENDED UP KEEPING WAS WHAT COST HIM
NOW, SOGA WHO HAD 9000 POINTS BEFORE
HAD A MERE 1000...!
ONLY HANGING ON BY A THREAD

ざわ..
ざわ
WEST WAS FINALLY BACKED INTO A CORNER.
HARADA WITH 4000, SOGA WITH 1000

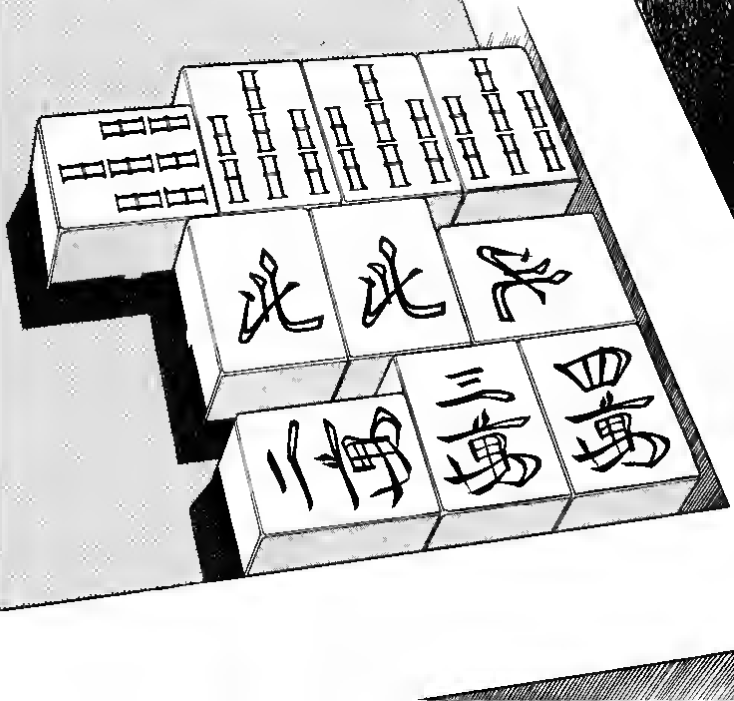

HIRO'S OPEN KAN
HIRO PLAYED A BIG ROLE IN IT TOO.
BUT AKAGI WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO MADE THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT POSSIBLE.
THAT'S OUR AKAGI!

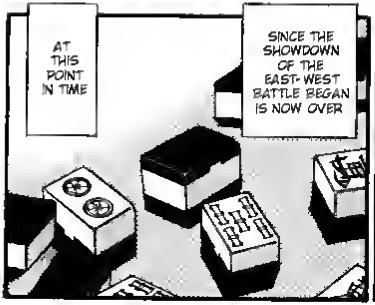
WAS WHAT SHOT SOGA DOWN IN THE END.
BUT THAT BOLDNESS
WITHOUT THINKING AHEAD, ONLY GOING STRAIGHT AHEAD TO STRIKE AT SOGA
IS A FLAWED AND PRETTY IMPERFECT STRATEGY
AIMING TO MAKE SOGA PAY ALL OF IT
THAT OPEN KAN RINSHAN TSUMO
WAS A PRAISE-WORTHY STRATEGY

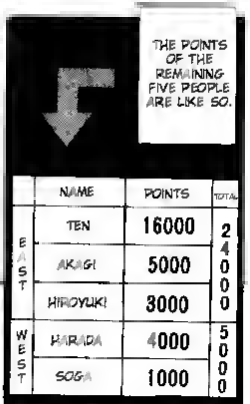
THAT FINAL CHOICE
IN THE END HE WAS WAITING ON A SINGLE TILE
IS WHAT HE MISJUDGED!
PROBABLY SOGA HAD CHII-TOI-TSU OR MAYBE A NORMAL HAND BUT
WHEN SOGA DROPPED THE 6-PIN
EVEN AFTER LOOKING AT THE TABLE
HE HAD A STRONG FEELING HE WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM A WIN
HE MISSED OUT ON WINNING AND DISCARDED ANOTHER 6-PIN
AND THEN NOT DISCARDING THAT LIVE TILE BACKFIRED ON HIM IN THE END
IT WAS A LIVE TILE HE JUST COULDN'T GET RID OF
MAYBE HE WAS BEING CAREFUL OF HIRO'S OPEN KANS
HIS BRAVERY WAS REWARDED IN THE END
THAT FOOLHARDY OPEN KAN STRATEGY OF HIRO'S
IT WORKED.

AND AFTER THAT PLAN DIDN'T WORK, IT SPUN A THREAD TOWARDS VICTORY...

HIRO'S RISKY OPEN KAN .....!







	NAME	POINTS	TOTAL
EAST	TEN	16000	24000
	AKAGI	5000	
	HIROYUKI	3000	
WEST	HARADA	4000	5000
	SOGA	1000	

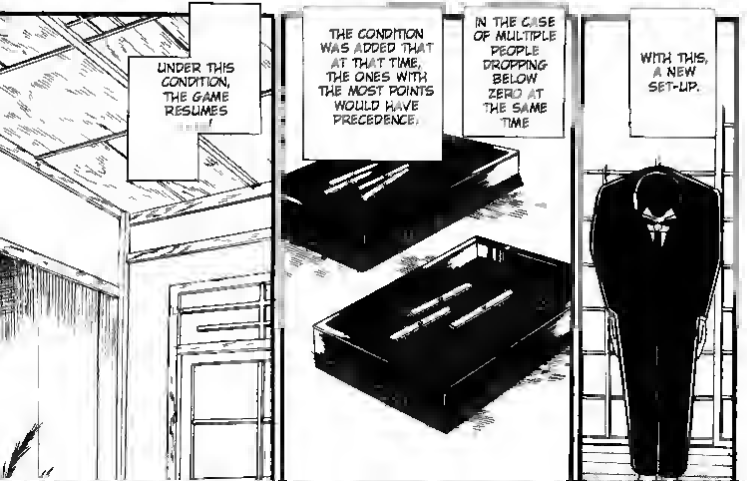
CHAPTER 79
SUDDEN DEATH

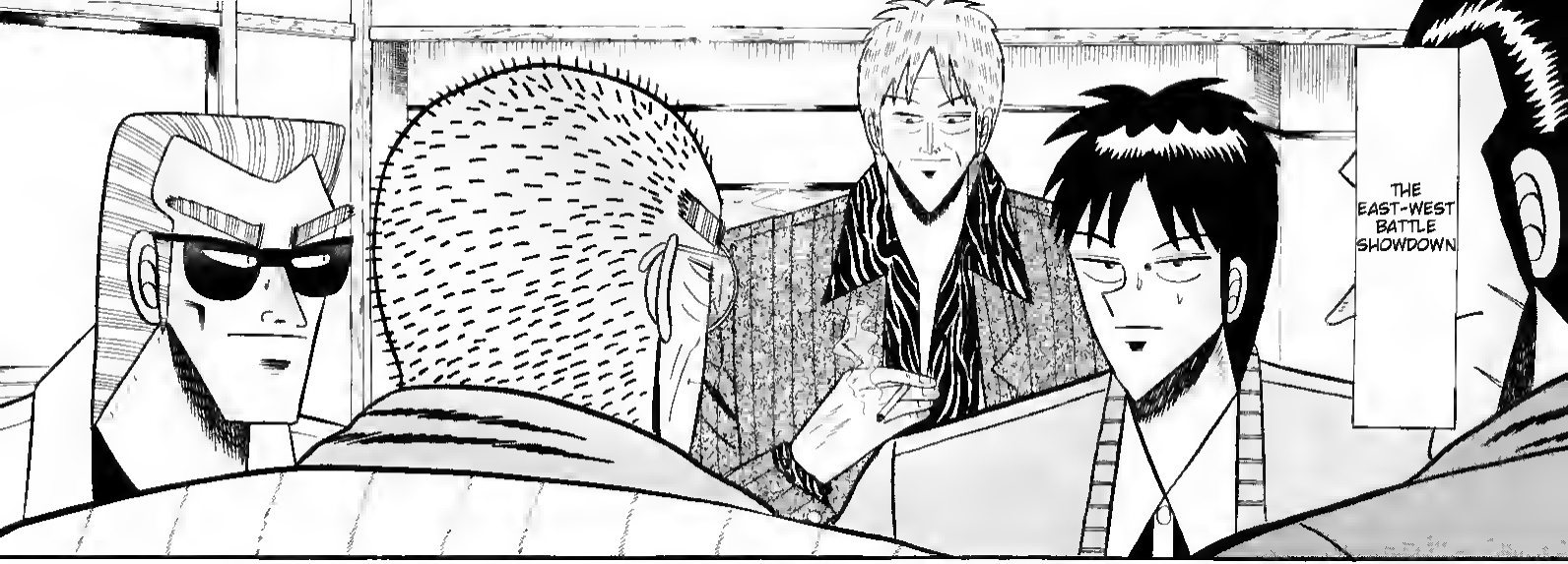
A CERTAIN SUSPICIOUS PROPOSAL CAME FROM WEST.
WHEN THEY STOPPED FOR A SHORT BREAK BEFORE THE 9TH HAN-CHAN.
HARADA WITH 4000 AND SOGA WITH 1000, IN THAT CASE
IF TEN TSUMOS AS DEALER WHEN THE PLAYERS AT THE TABLE ARE HIROYUKI WITH 3000
FOR EX. M-PLE
NOT EXPECTING THE MATCH TO BE TIED UP LIKE THIS
ALL THREE WOULD LOSE THEIR POINTS AND GO BELOW ZERO.
THEY WERE NOW IN THE SITUATION WHERE TWO OR MORE PEOPLE COULD GO BELOW ZERO AT THE SAME TIME.
HIROYUKI WITH 3000 AND HARADA WITH 4000 WOULD BE SPARED.
IN SHORT, IN THE ABOVE EXAMPLE
THAT IN THE CASE OF MULTIPLE PEOPLE GOING BELOW ZERO AT THE SAME TIME, THE ONES WITH THE MOST POINTS WOULD HAVE PRECEDENCE.
WEST PROP-OSED
THAT WAS WEST'S PROPO-SAL.
IN A CASE LIKE THIS, PRIORITY SHOULD BE DETERMINED
LOSING THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN THE FINAL SHOW-DOWN.
SOGA WITH 1000 WOULD GO BELOW ZERO

MMMM
WHAT DO YOU SAY ...?
NATURALLY WEST WAS HIDING SOME PLAN IN THIS
BUT
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOKED AT IT, WOULD BE SOGA WITH 1000
THE FIRST ONE TO GO UNDER
AT FIRST GLANCE, IT WAS A DEAL THAT WOULD BENEFIT EAST
IT WOULD BE A LONG SHOT
IF WEST WAS GOING TO TRY TO BUILD A SUPERIOR POSITION FROM THIS DEAL
THIS WAS BE-CAUSE
NEITHER DARED TO SAY IT
TEN AND AKAGI REALIZED THIS, BUT
AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO WIN THAT LONG SHOT.

AND THAT MEANT THAT IT WOULD BE A FAIR PROPOSAL
THERE WOULD NEVER BE ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD BENEFIT ONLY WEST.
AT PRESENT, EAST HAD THE BEST POSITION.

EAST ACCEPTS.
YEAH...
SHOULD WE ACCEPT...?


UNDER THIS CONDITION, THE GAME RESUMES.
THE CONDITION WAS ADDED THAT AT THAT TIME, THE ONES WITH THE MOST POINTS WOULD HAVE PRECEDENCE.
IN THE CASE OF MULTIPLE PEOPLE DROPPING BELOW ZERO AT THE SAME TIME
WITH THIS, A NEW SET-UP.

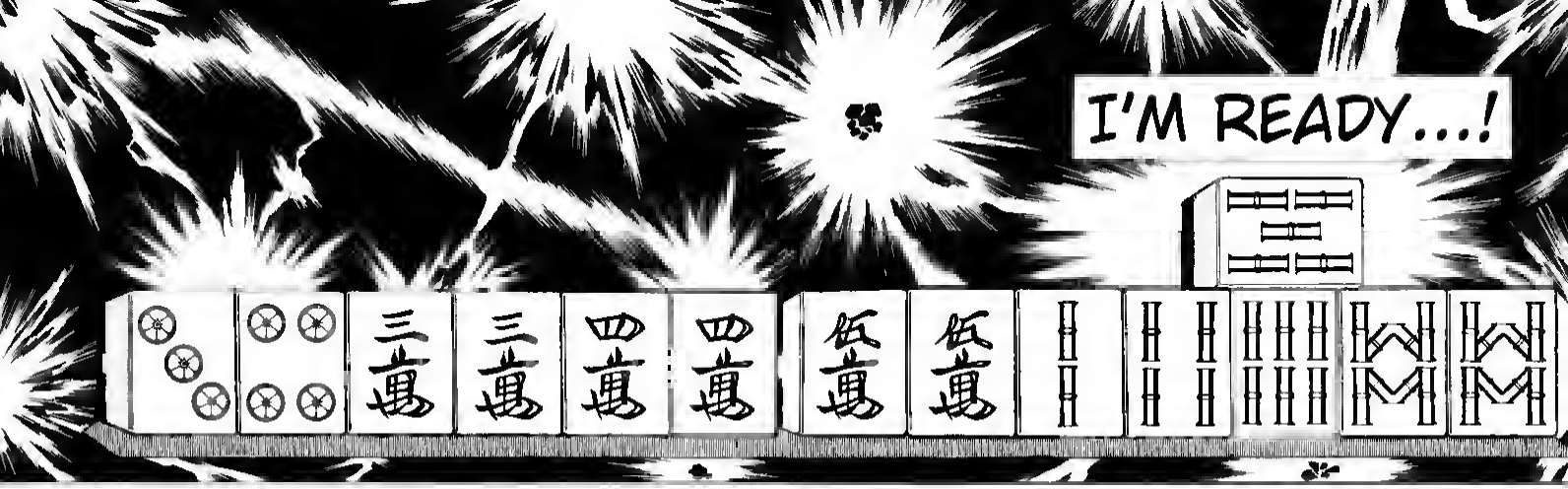

THE EAST-WEST BATTLE SHOWDOWN

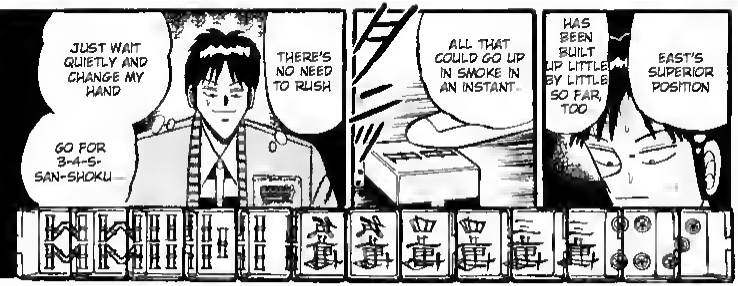
THIS MEANT THAT HIS ALLY, HARADA, COULD NOT TSUMO
IF WEST GOT TSUMO, SOGA WITH 1000 WOULD IMMEDIATELY DROP BELOW ZERO.
THE CONDITIONS WHERE THEY COULD TSUMO WERE TOTALLY DIFFERENT
THIS WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT
THERE WAS NO NEED TO STRIKE FORWARD QUICKLY.
THE ONES COMING AFTER HIM MOVED TO DODGE DIRECT HITS
SINCE TEN WOULD HAVE SOME LIFE LEFT IN HIM EVEN IF HE DEALT IN HE WENT ON AHEAD
THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THEY'D END UP WINNING EASILY.
AND THEY HAD TEN TOO, WHO HAD POINTS TO SPARE
ON THAT POINT, ANYBODY FROM EAST COULD TSUMO TO WIN.

BECAUSE OF COURSE IF ANY PLAYER OTHER THAN TEN DEALS INTO MANGAN, THEY IMMEDIATELY GO BELOW ZERO
FUNDAMENTALLY, EAST HAS THE BETTER POSITION IN THIS MATCH
9TH HAN-CHAN
EAST HAD ROOM TO MOVE.
DESPITE THAT, TO BE SURE
IT'S TRUE THAT NOBODY KNEW WHICH WAY THE GAME WOULD GO, BUT...

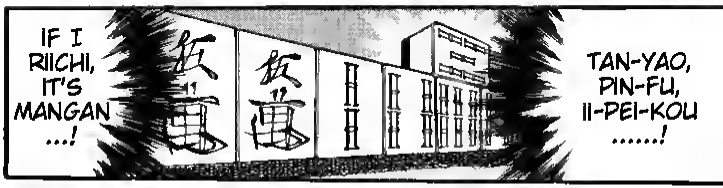
THE SAME COULDN'T BE SAID OF WEST, ESPECIALLY SOGA...
BUT
PON ...!
CHII ...!
THAT WOULD BE IT FOR SOGA...
IF ANYONE FROM EAST GOT TSUMO
EVEN BEING DEEPLY CAUTIOUS OF DEALING IN
AS SAID BEFORE
HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE FORWARD

SOGA ATTACKED FROM THE OPENING ROUND WITHOUT REST,
WINDS HAD SHIFTED TO EAST 3RD ROUND
GETTING TWO CHEAP WINS SO FAR.
AT THIS TIME
SOMETHING'S UP THIS TIME
NO
WINNING JUST TO CHANGE THE WINDS ?
A CHEAP HAND AGAIN
THAT'S A PRETTY FORCEFUL PLAN.
EVEN IF HE'S ONLY AIMING TO WIN A LOT
HAS HE GOT DORA OR SOMETHING ?


I'M READY...!

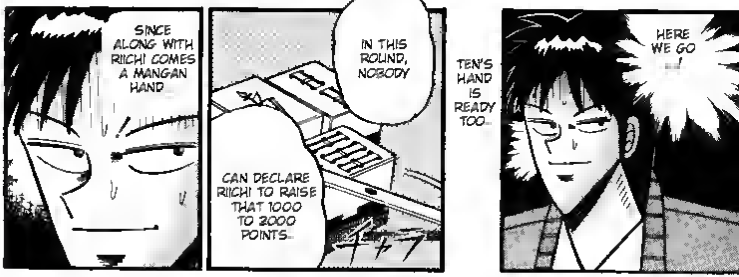

JUST WAIT QUIETLY AND CHANGE MY HAND
GO FOR 3-4-5-SAN-SHOKU
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH
ALL THAT COULD GO UP IN SMOKE IN AN INSTANT.
HAS BEEN BUILT UP LITTLE BY LITTLE SO FAR, TOO
EAST'S SUPERIOR POSITION

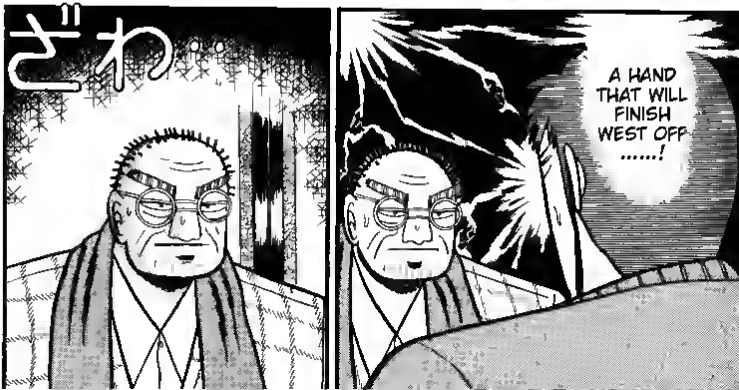
AS IF IN RESPONSE TO THAT.
TEN
AND THEN A NUMBER OF TURNS LATER
HIROYUKI KEPT HIS HEAD DOWN.
I DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING RECKLESS——!
THIS HAND WILL BE MANGAN.
WITH SAN-SHOKU I DON'T NEED TO DECLARE RIICHI.


IF I RIICHI, IT'S MANGAN ...!
TAN-YAO, PIN-FU, II-PEI-KOU ……!

IF I GET CARRIED AWAY AND GO INTO RIICHI
AND DEAL INTO MANGAN. IT'S ALL OVER.
チラ…
BUT...
LET'S NOT GET HASTY HERE.
I GOT IT
A HAND THAT CAN STRIKE THEM DOWN.

RIICHI.

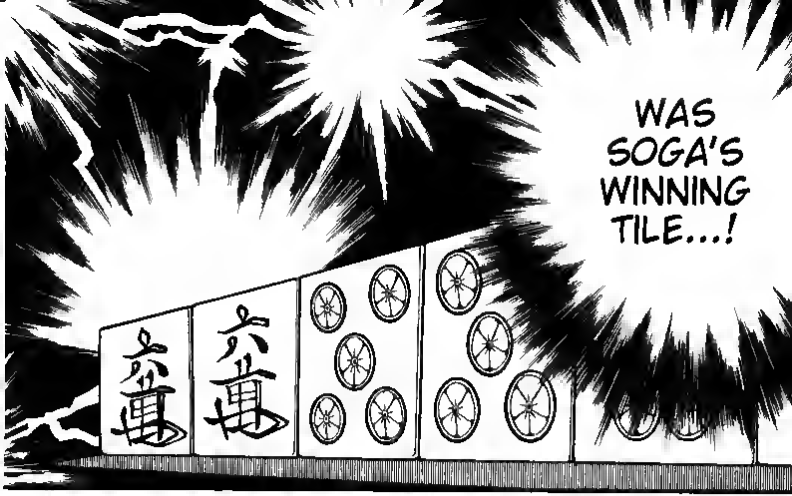

SINCE ALONG WITH RIICHI COMES A MANGAN HAND
IN THIS ROUND, NOBODY CAN DECLARE RIICHI TO RAISE THAT 1000 TO 2000 POINTS
TEN'S HAND IS READY TOO
HERE WE GO!

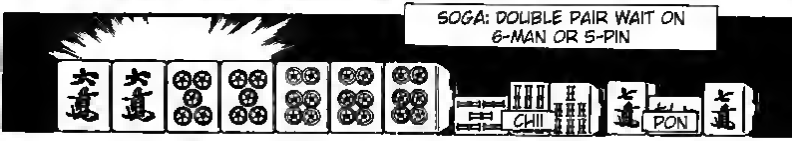

ざわ……
A HAND THAT WILL FINISH WEST OFF……!

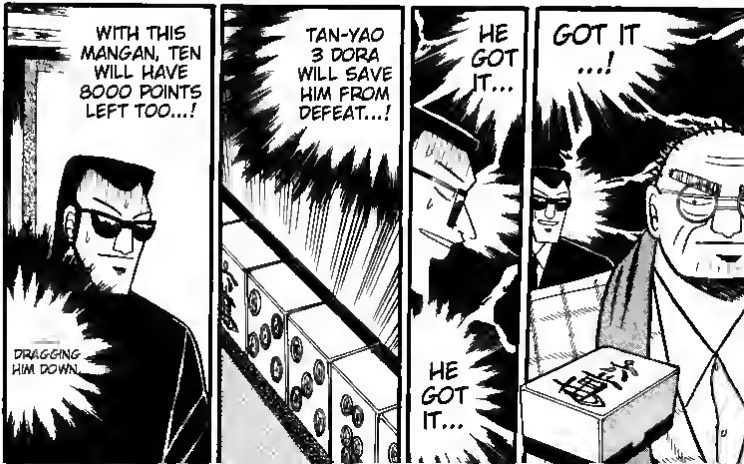
NEXT TURN
ざわ..ざわ..
TEN'S IPPATSU DRAW ...!
DRAW IT...!
IF I DRAW IT, I WIN ...!
IF I DRAW IT...
.....

IS PRETTY RISKY
BUT
THIS 6-MAN AGAINST SOGA
NO GOOD
PASS ...!

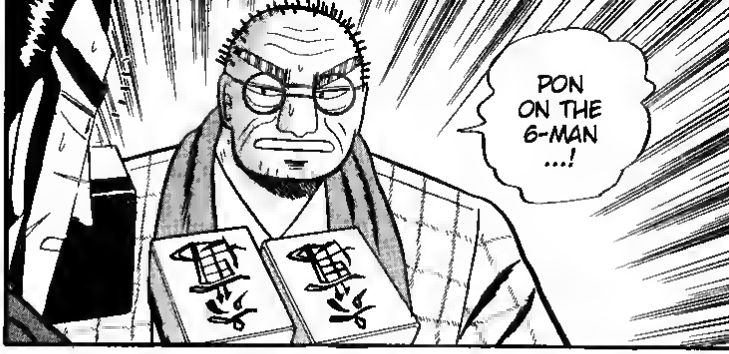
SOGA DIDN'T MOVE ...!
ホ...
IT PASSED ...!
IN FACT, THAT 6-MAN .....!
NO ...!


WAS SOGA'S WINNING TILE...!

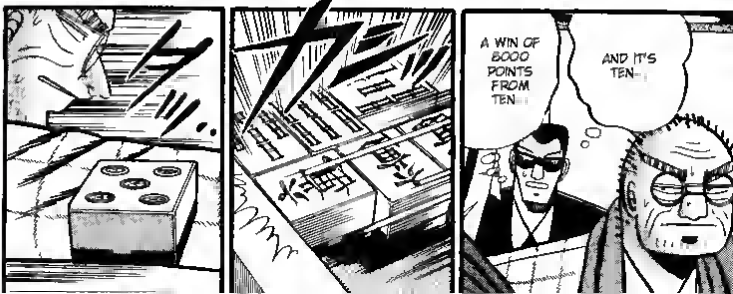

SOGA: DOUBLE PAIR WAIT ON 6-MAN OR 5-PIN
CHII
PON


WITH THIS MANGAN, TEN WILL HAVE 8000 POINTS LEFT TOO...!
DRAGGING HIM DOWN!
TAN-YAO 3 DORA WILL SAVE HIM FROM DEFEAT...!
HE GOT IT...
HE GOT IT...
GOT IT ...!

TEN WILL BE IN THIS SUDDEN DEATH FIGHT TOO...!
BUT .....
NO — THERE WAS MOVEMENT BUT
FOR SOME REASON, SOGA DIDN'T MOVE
IT WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THE PERSON BEHIND HIM EXPECTED.


PON ON THE 6-MAN ...!

WHY DIDN'T HE WIN...?
WHAT IS HE THINKING?
WHY PON...?
WHAT'S HE SAYING...?

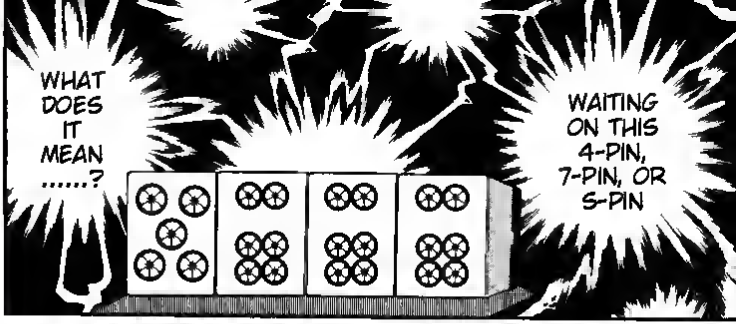

A WIN OF 8000 POINTS FROM TEN...
AND IT'S TEN...

THIS 5-PIN
URGH...!

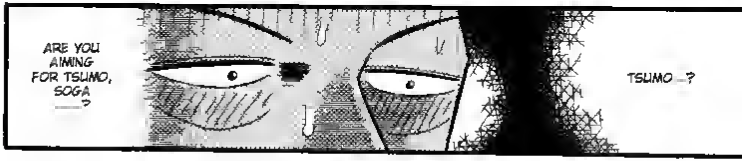
WAS HIROYUKI'S WINNING TILE

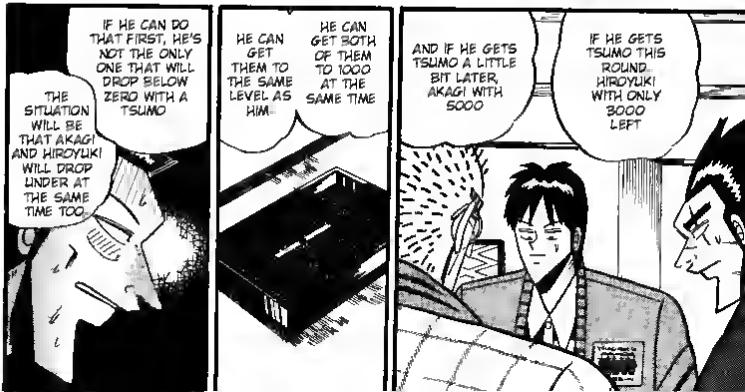
HIROYUKI PASSED ON IT...
I'M NOT GOING TO GET IN THE WAY...
I SHOULD BE WAITING FOR TEN'S MANGAN TSUMO
IT WOULDN'T REACH MANGAN...
BUT IF HE LAY DOWN HIS HAND HERE IT WOULD BE 3900

MORE THAN THAT, MORE THAN ANYTHING
WHY DID HE OVERLOOK IT...?
OVERLOOKING IT ON THIS WAIT.....
IT'S MADNESS.....
EVEN THOUGH IT PASSED, THE 5-PIN NEXT TO THE DORA IS DANGEROUS TILE.
ざわ..
ざわ..


WHAT DOES IT MEAN .....?
WAITING ON THIS 4-PIN, 7-PIN, OR 5-PIN

I DON'T GET IT


ARE YOU AIMING FOR TSUMO, SOGA ——?
TSUMO ——?


IF HE CAN DO THAT FIRST, HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT WILL DROP BELOW ZERO WITH A TSUMO
THE SITUATION WILL BE THAT AKAGI AND HIROYUKI WILL DROP UNDER AT THE SAME TIME TOO.
HE CAN GET THEM TO THE SAME LEVEL AS HIM.
HE CAN GET BOTH OF THEM TO 1000 AT THE SAME TIME
AND IF HE GETS TSUMO A LITTLE BIT LATER, AKAGI WITH 5000
IF HE GETS TSUMO THIS ROUND. HIROYUKI WITH ONLY 3000 LEFT

I GUESS SOGA PREDICTS THAT THE LATTER HAS MORE MERIT...
BUT
WHICH HAS MORE MERIT TO WEST RIGHT NOW?
I COULDN'T SAY
TEN WITH BOOO
OR AKAGI AND HIROYUKI WITH 1000!
AND THE PRESENT SITUATION IS THE WORST.
HE HAS TO GET EAST ON THE SAME ROAD AS HIM, SOMEHOW.
IT'LL BE SETTLED BY TSUMO...
CAN'T BE SETTLED WITH A DIRECT HIT.
HE PROBABLY PREDICTS THAT THE LAST MOMENTS OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE'S SHOWDOWN
CAME TO PASS ...!
RIGHT AFTER TEN AND AKAGI SWITCHED
AND THEN JUST BEFORE THE END
SOGA'S FIXATION
SOGA MITSUI'S DETERMINATION
HIS FIXATION ON WINNNG
THAT IS SOGA MITSUI'S PREDICTION.

TSUMO ...!
URGH...!
THAT'S CRAZY ...!
ざわ
.....
THAT'S ABSURD.....
SOGA COULD HAVE WON BACK THEN...?
HE DISCARDED THE 5-PIN
AFTER SOGA CALLED ON TEN'S 6-MAN
WHICH MEANS
MANGAN ...!
TAN-YAO, 3 DORA .....

EVEN IF I DECIDED THAT THE IDEAL WAY TO WIN WAS BY TSUMO
IT'S STILL SOMETHING I COULD NEVER DO
IN THIS DESPERATE SITUATION
SOGA... I CASUALLY PASSED ON A WIN
IF HE MADE ONE WRONG MOVE
HE'D LOSE EVERYTHING IN THIS LAST ROUND
UN-THINK-ABLE
SUCH STRENGTH
THE WILLPOWER TO NOT MOVE NO MATTER WHAT

AS IF HE WON BY TWISTING FATE ITSELF INTO SUBMISSION.....!
A MONSTROUS STRENGTH...!

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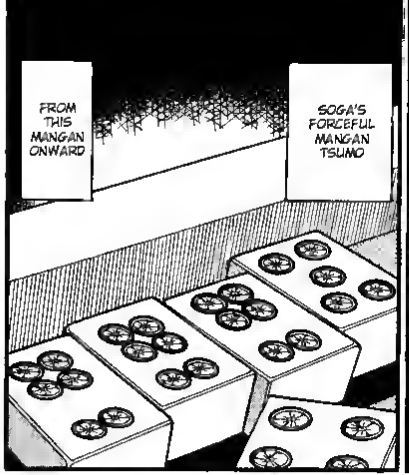
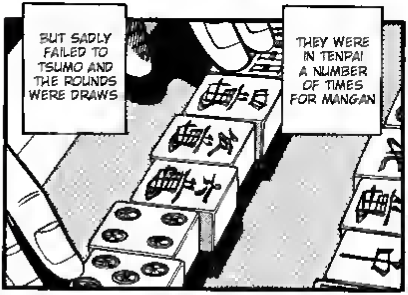
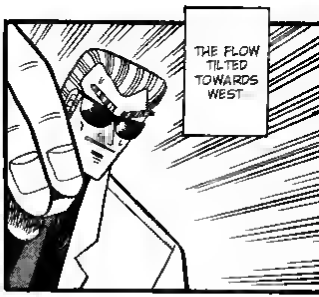
CHAPTER 20
BLUFF


FROM THIS MANGAN ONWARD
SOGA'S FORCEFUL MANGAN TSUMO

IN THE EAST 2ND ROUND OF THE 9TH HAN-CHAN


BUT SADLY FAILED TO TSUMO AND THE ROUNDS WERE DRAWS
THEY WERE IN TENPAI A NUMBER OF TIMES FOR MANGAN

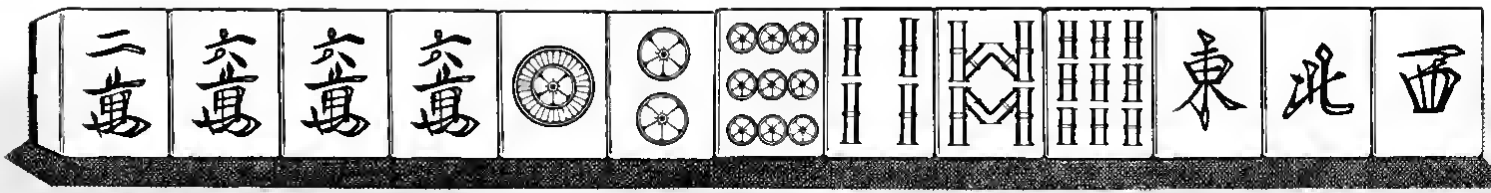

THE FLOW TILTED TOWARDS WEST

WITH OFFENSIVE AFTER OFFENSIVE
WEST WAS IN A SUPERIOR POSITION.
BUT

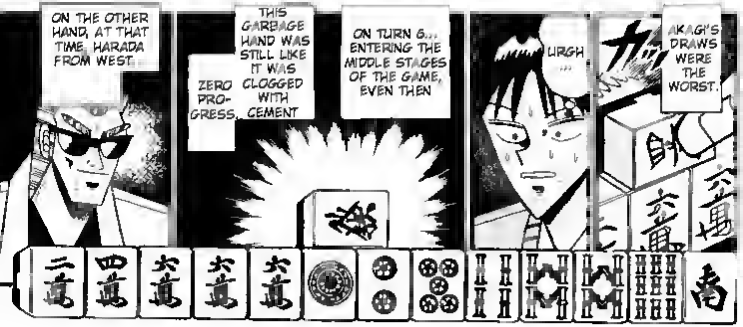
LEAVING THE OUTCOME OF THE MATCH UNDETER-MINED
OR EAST WOULD GET A CHEAP HAND

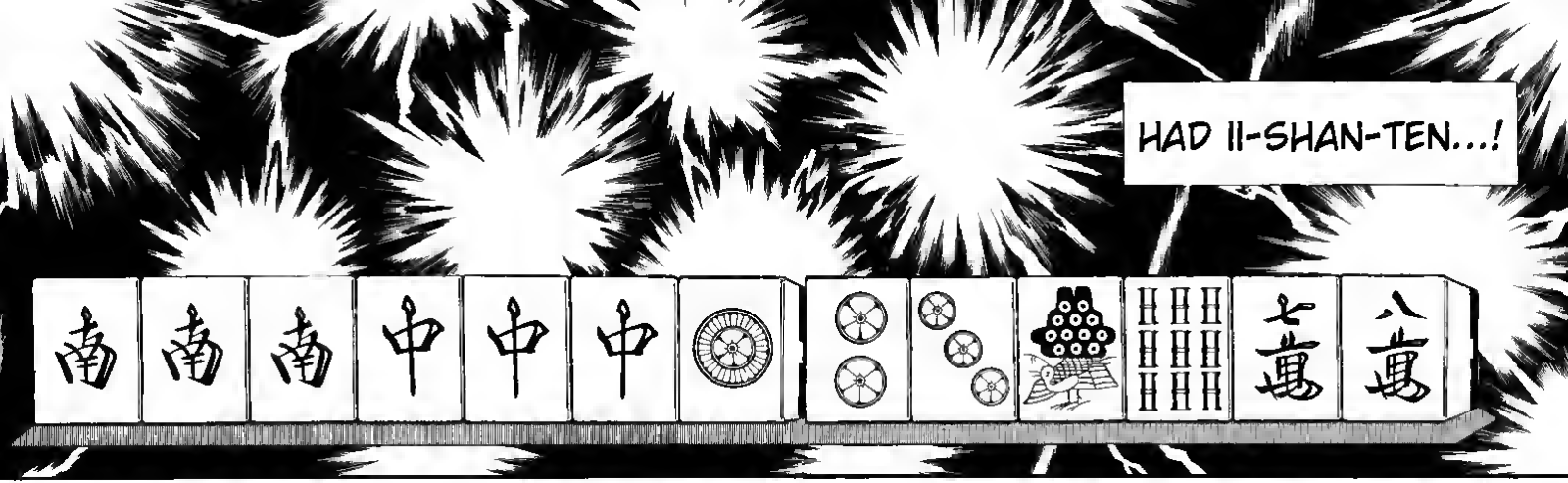
ON THE OTHER HAND, EAST WAS STRUGGLING
THE RULE OF THE SHOWDOWN THAT LESS THAN MANGAN DID NOT COUNT
THIS MANGAN RESTRICTION
WEIGHED EAST DOWN HEAVILY...
EVEN THOUGH THEY WANTED TO MAKE A MANGAN HAND
THEIR STARTING HANDS AND DRAWS WERE THE WORST
THEY REALLY COULDN'T GET THEM FAR
PON...!
AFTER TESTING THE WATERS, THEY WORKED HARD TO GET INTO TENPAI FOR A 1000-POINT HAND
A TRAGIC SITUATION
RIGHT NOW, TEN AND AKAGI
WERE ONLY DOING THEIR BEST TO ENDURE.
SOUTH 3RD ROUND
ALL WE'VE BEEN GETTING ARE SAD-LOOKING HANDS LATELY
...COME ON, AKAGI...

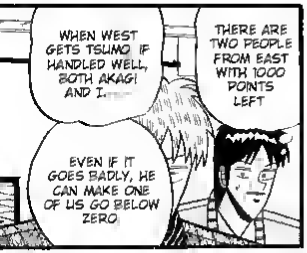
AKAGI'S STARTING HAND...!



THAT HOPE WAS IN VAIN.
BUT
TAN-YAO, 3 DORA, AN INSTANT MANGAN...!
IT WILL BE MANGAN WITHOUT DECLARING RIICHI
IF HE CAN GET IT TOWARDS TAN-YAO


ON THE OTHER HAND, AT THAT TIME, HARADA FROM WEST...
ZERO PRO-GRESS.
THIS GARBAGE HAND WAS STILL LIKE IT WAS CLOGGED WITH CEMENT
ON TURN 6... ENTERING THE MIDDLE STAGES OF THE GAME, EVEN THEN
URGH...
AKAGI'S DRAWS WERE THE WORST.

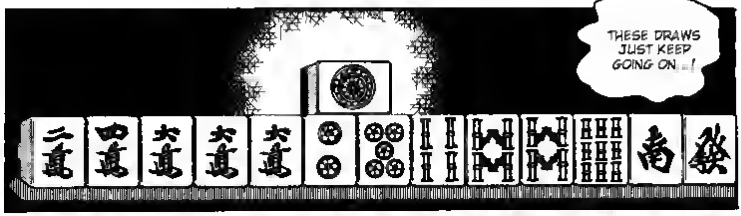



WHEN WEST GETS TSUMO IF HANDLED WELL, BOTH AKAGI AND I...
THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE FROM EAST WITH 1000 POINTS LEFT
EVEN IF IT GOES BADLY, HE CAN MAKE ONE OF US GO BELOW ZERO

	NAME	POINTS	
EAST	TEN	16000	18000
	AKAGI	1000	
	HIROYUKI	1000	
WEST	HARADA	2000	3000
	SOGA	1000	

WHICH MEANS
BECAUSE TSUMO IS ENOUGH
THEY'RE GOING STRAIGHT AHEAD
WEST ISN'T THINKING ABOUT CAMOUFLAGE RIGHT NOW
IN SHORT
HARADA'S DISCARDS
HARADA'S HAND IS
NO— HE MIGHT ALREADY BE IN TENPAI—
IN ANOTHER TURN OR TWO
THAT'S A MANGAN HAND HE HAS..
SOMETHING AROUND CHANTA—
7TH TURN
AND HE DID IT QUICKLY TOO
AND THE FANPAI NAN AND CHUN AREN'T OUT ON THE TABLE EITHER.
WHEN YOU PUT THESE THINGS TOGETHER

IT'S NO GOOD...!
AKAG!...


THESE DRAWS JUST KEEP GOING ON...!

IT'S GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
THERE'S NOT EVEN A HINT OF IT.
HE CAN'T FOLLOW UP ON IT.
THIS KIND OF SITUATION MAKES IT JUST IMPOS-SIBLE.

URGH...!
I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING HERE BUT
STILL...

FOR INSTANCE, ON THIS 8-SOU .....!
THE ONLY THING HE CAN DO IS CALL....!
YES...
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A SLOW HAND
BUT...
THERE'S A GOD CHANCE IT WILL BE A SLOW HAND.
EVEN IF HE CALLS HERE
AND HEAD FOR OPEN TAN-YAO
CALL ON THIS 8-SOU
EVEN ONE STEP CLOSER TOWARDS WINNING COULD BE DEATH.
WHETHER HE DEALS IN OR THEY TSUMO, A LOSS IS A LOSS.
JUST INCH FORWARD ...
EVEN IF IT IS RECKLESS
THIS IS THE LAST ROUND.
HE CAN ONLY GO FORWARD.
HE'LL HAVE TO GO FOR IT.....!

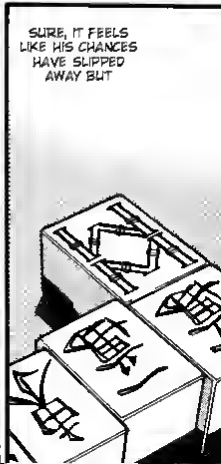
BUT...
AKAGI
NOT THE SLIGHTEST MOVEMENT ...!
AKAGI DIDN'T MOVE.

AKAGI
.....
WHY... AREN'T YOU MOVING! ...?

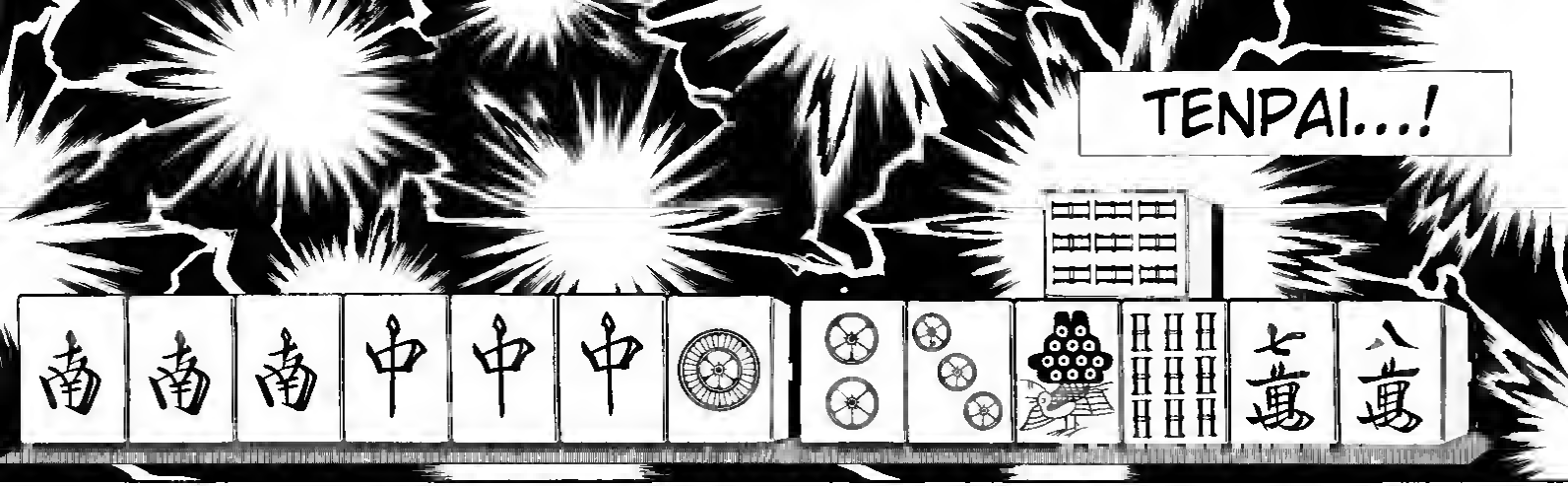
.....
WHY ...?

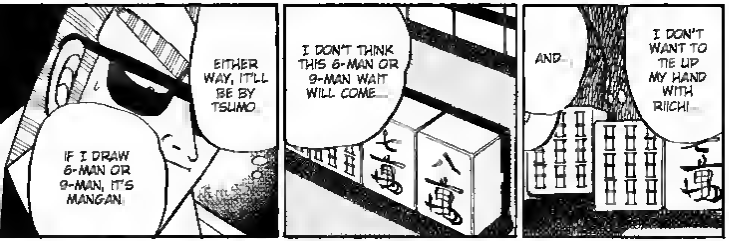
NEXT TURN, TEN

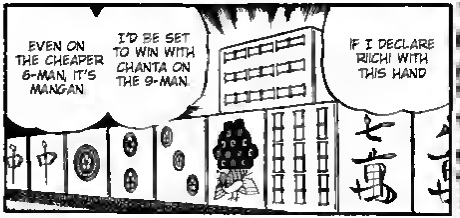
DESPITE THAT, IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
BETTER BY FAR .....

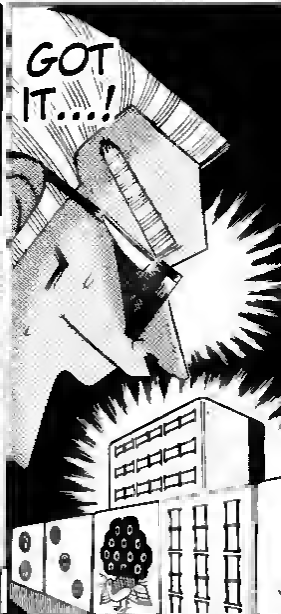

SURE, IT FEELS LIKE HIS CHANCES HAVE SLIPPED AWAY BUT

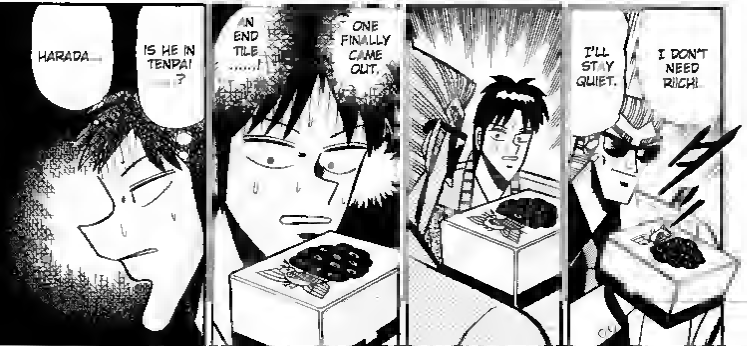
HE DIDN'T CALL.
PASSED ON THIS TOO AND DREW.
AKAGI
BUT.....
THIS TIME, TEN PLAYED THE 2-MAN THAT AKAGI COULD CALL ON.
THAT'S CRAZY...
.....
FOR SOME REASON, HE DIDN'T CALL ...
THE SAME TURN, HARADA
IT'S LIKE HE'S ABANDONED THE MATCH.
HE'S COMPLETELY GIVEN UP.
WHY.....?
AKAGI.....!


TENPAI...!


EITHER WAY, IT'LL BE BY TSUMO.
IF I DRAW 6-MAN OR 9-MAN, IT'S MANGAN.
I DON'T THINK THIS 6-MAN OR 9-MAN WAIT WILL COME...
AND...
I DON'T WANT TO TIE UP MY HAND WITH RIICHI...

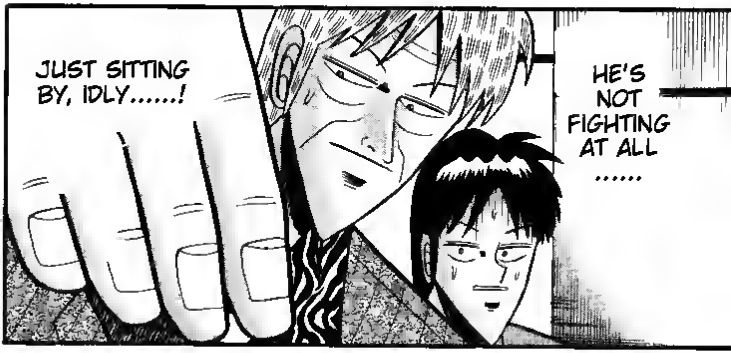

EVEN ON THE CHEAPER 6-MAN, IT'S MANGAN.
I'D BE SET TO WIN WITH CHANTA ON THE 9-MAN.
IF I DECLARE RIICHI WITH THIS HAND


GOT IT...!

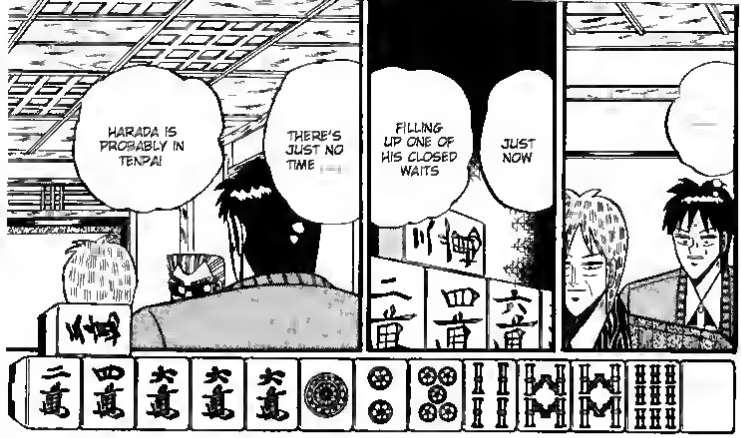

HARADA...
IS HE IN TENPAI.....?
AN END TILE.....!
ONE FINALLY CAME OUT.
I'LL STAY QUIET.
I DON'T NEED RIICHI.

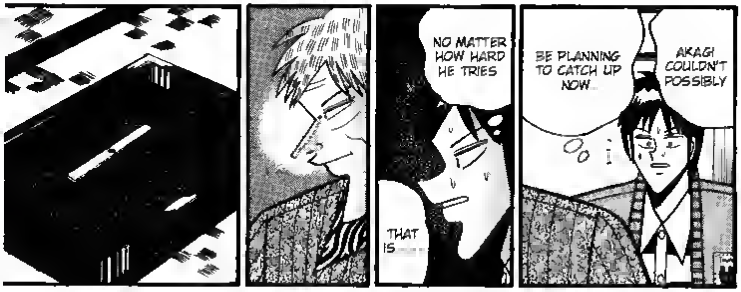
IT WOULD STINK TO DRAW A BAD TILE AND DEAL INTO IT IST NOW...
THIS GUY HERE IS A TRICKY ONE.
BUT...

HOW CAN AKAGI ALLOW THAT...?
BUT... LOSING LIKE THIS...
AT THE SAME TIME, EVEN IF HE LOSES, IT'S LIKE...
HE'S CLOSING IN...
SHIT...
IF HE GETS HIS TSUMO, IT'S ALL OVER

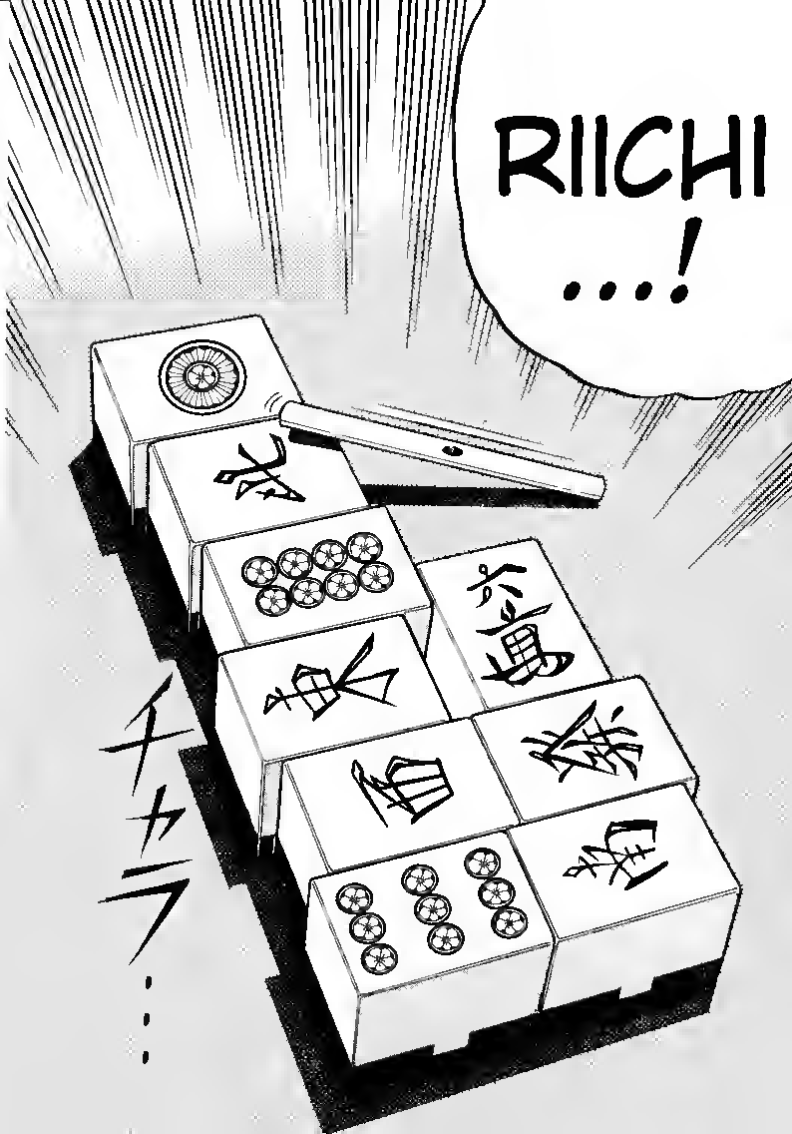

JUST SITTING BY, IDLY.....!
HE'S NOT FIGHTING AT ALL .....

WAITING TO DIE ...!

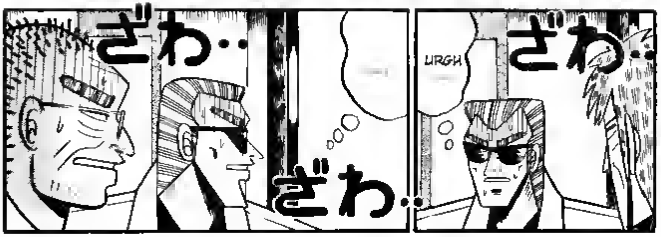

HARADA IS PROBABLY IN TENPAI
THERE'S JUST NO TIME...
FILLING UP ONE OF HIS CLOSED WAITS
JUST NOW

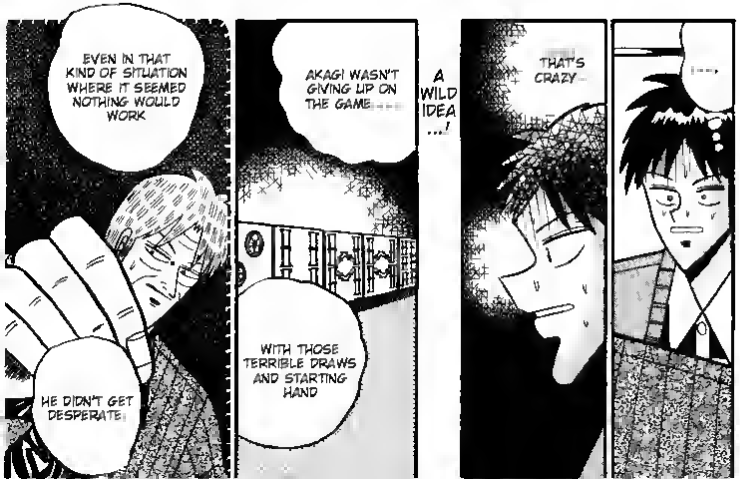

NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIES
THAT IS...
BE PLANNING TO CATCH UP NOW...
AKAGI COULDN'T POSSIBLY

HUH...?

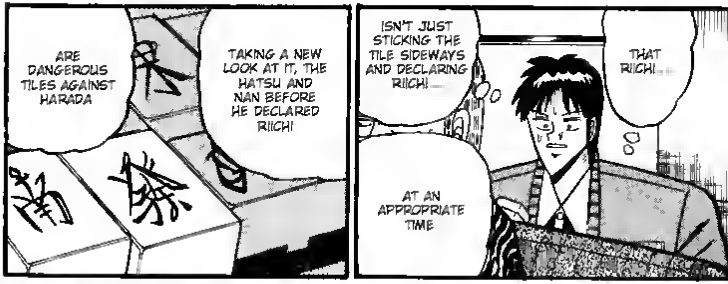

RIICHI ...!
チャラ...

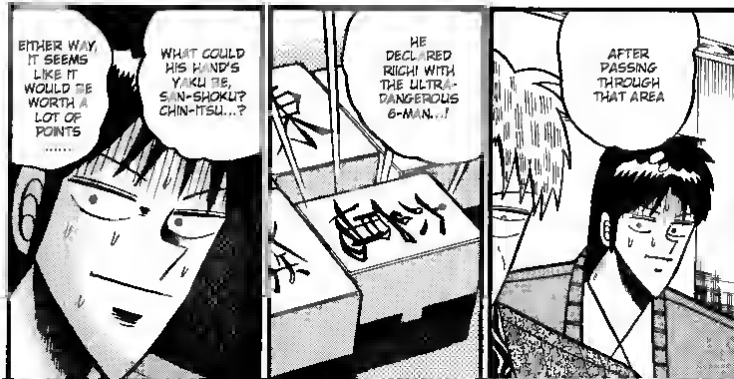
* THE RULES ARE THAT THE GAME ENDS WHEN A PLAYER GOES BELOW ZERO SO A PERSON CAN'T LOSE JUST BY PUTTING OUT THE POINT STICK FOR RICHI.




EVEN IN THAT KIND OF SITUATION WHERE IT SEEMED NOTHING WOULD WORK
HE DIDN'T GET DESPERATE.
AKAGI WASN'T GIVING UP ON THE GAME....
WITH THOSE TERRIBLE DRAWS AND STARTING HAND
A WILD IDEA...!
THAT'S CRAZY...
I....

THIS BLUFF...
A NO-TEN RIICHI ...!
HE ARRIVED AT A UNIQUE APPROACH
BASICALLY ONLY BY DOING THIS...
HE WAS WORKING HARD TO FIND A WAY OUT...
AND THE ONLY WAY WAS...


ARE DANGEROUS TILES AGAINST HARADA
TAKING A NEW LOOK AT IT, THE HATSU AND NAN BEFORE HE DECLARED RIICHI
ISN'T JUST STICKING THE TILE SIDEWAYS AND DECLARING RIICHI.....
AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME
THAT RIICHI...


EITHER WAY, IT SEEMS LIKE IT WOULD BE WORTH A LOT OF POINTS .....
WHAT COULD HIS HAND'S YAKU BE, SAN-SHOKU? CHIN-ITSU...?
HE DECLARED RIICHI WITH THE ULTRA-DANGEROUS 6-MAN...!
AFTER PASSING THROUGH THAT AREA

.....
HEAVY DISCARDS ...!
IT SEEMS LIKE IT COULD CLEAR MANGAN, EASILY.
KH...
パタ
RON...!
HE SURVIVED ...!
HE DID IT...!
CHUN, NAN, 1 DORA (8400)
HARADA YIELDED TO AKAGI'S PRESSURE.

VICTORY WENT TO AKAGI...
HE COULDN'T PASS ON THE 6-MAN.
BUT WITH THE BAD FEELING HE HAD FROM AKAGI'S DISCARDS
AND PRESSURED BY THAT DRIVE
WITH ANYTHING LESS THAN MANGAN.
OF COURSE, HIROI DIDN'T PLAN TO WIN THIS HAND

HEH HEH...
ガミナガ

AKAGI'S BLUFF
AFTER IT'S OVER, IT LOOKS NEAT AND TIDY, BUT
IF IT BACKFIRED ON HIM...
YEAH——
SURE, IT WAS RISKY.
.....
I GUESS IT JUST WOULDN'T GO THROUGH—
IT WAS A RISKY MOVE BUT

AKAGI...
NH...?
SOMEHOW, HE ISN'T AFRAID...
ISN'T AFRAID OF THAT.
BUT THIS MAN
IF HIS NO-TEN RICH! WAS REVEALED, THE 2000-POINT PENALTY WOULD TAKE HIM BELOW ZERO.
AND GONE INTO A DRAW ...
SELF-DESTRUC-TION.

YES?
HIRO...
OR WERE YOU GIVING UP...?
DID YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF?
AT THAT TIME.....
WHEN YOU DISCARDED THAT G-MAN...

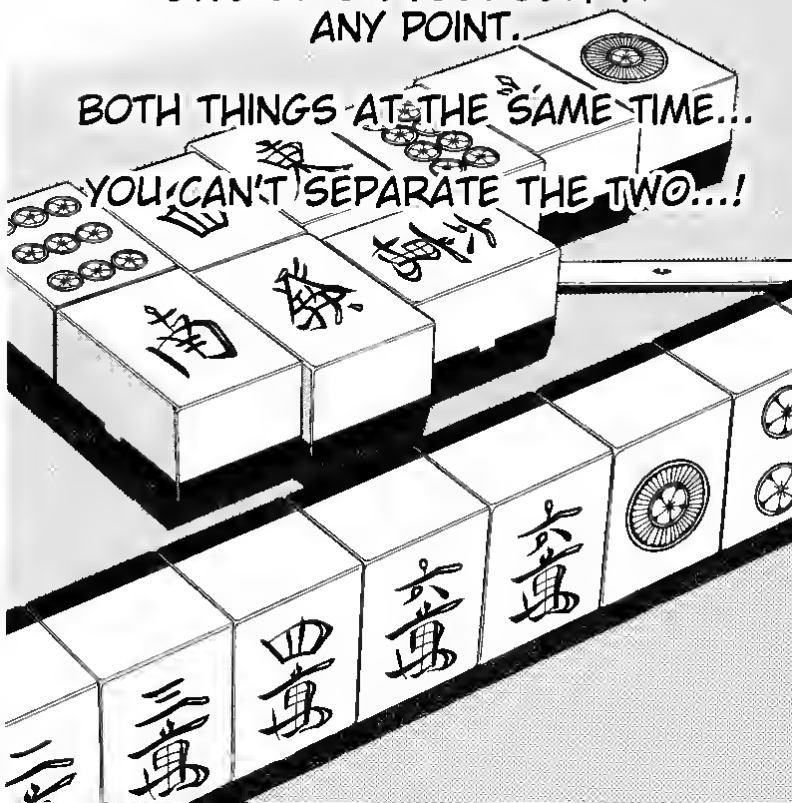
HEH HEH...
?...
BELIEVING IN AND GIVING UP ON SOMETHING ARE THE SAME THING.....
YEAH...
THE SAME THING ...?
THEY'RE THE SAME THING...

WHEN YOU DEAL WITH THE THINGS YOU'RE FIXATED ON, ALONG WITH YOUR TRUE INTENTIONS

YOU CAN BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND AT THE SAME TIME GIVE UP ON YOURSELF AT ANY POINT.

BOTH THINGS AT THE SAME TIME...

YOU CAN'T SEPARATE THE TWO...!



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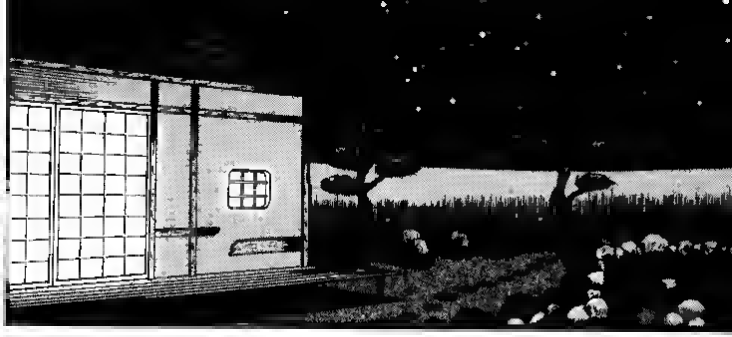
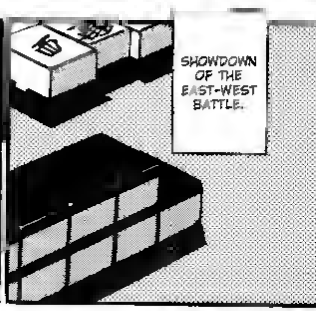
CHAPTER 81
TILE-SWITCHING



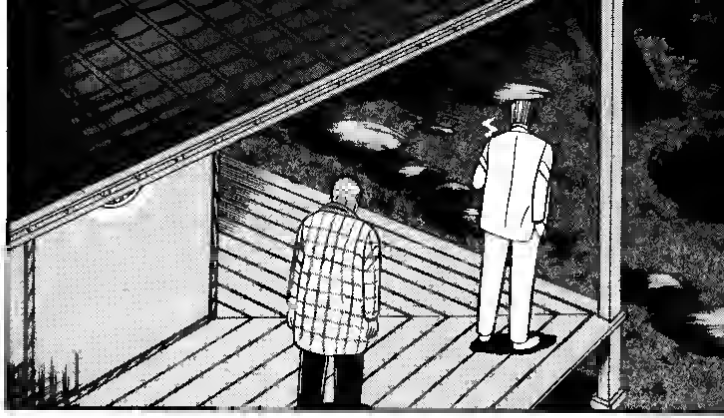
THE FLOW WAS STILL AS BAD AS EVER...
EAST'S STRUGGLE CONTINUED


SHOWDOWN OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE.

BUT...

A PAINFUL BATTLE.
EAST WAS STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE NOW.

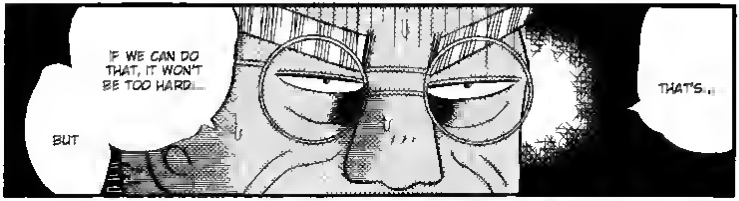
WEST DIDN'T HAVE IT SO EASY EITHER .....!
THEY COULD STILL BE DRIVEN INTO A CORNER.
THAT WAS HOW IT APPEARED.
AS LONG AS THEY COULDN'T BRING THIS TO A CONCLUSION
TO THEIR ADVANTAGE EITHER.
THE WINDS WEREN'T ALWAYS BLOWING
THE TIME LIMIT WAS CLOSE...
CH'...!
GH...
THEY COULDN'T FALL BEHIND



A SHORT REST BREAK BEFORE ENTERING THE 10TH HAN-CHAN
...
...
...SO ANYWAY

CRAP
LET'S CLEAN UP THIS MESS SOMEHOW!
GET SOME RESULTS
BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY ...
SOGA
LET'S WORK AT IT TOGETHER.
TOGE-THER ...?

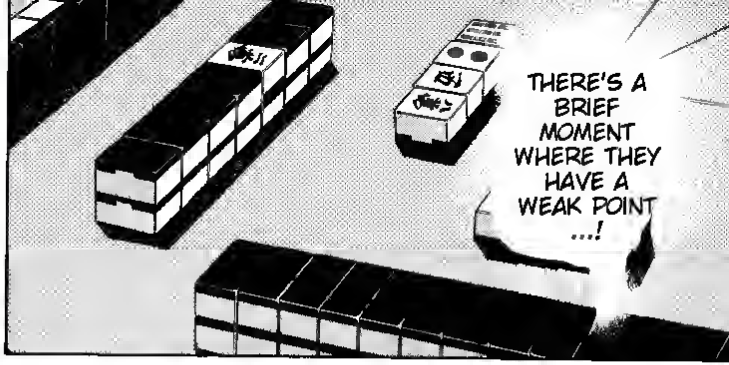
THE NEXT TIME WE GET A CHANCE...
WE'LL SWITCH TILES!
WE'LL MAKE A MANGAN HAND TOGETHER.
WE WON'T STRAIN OURSELVES TO MAKE OUR OWN HANDS...
SIMPLY PUT

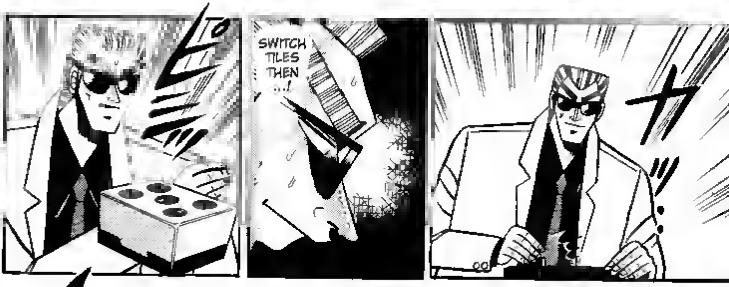

IF WE CAN DO THAT, IT WON'T BE TOO HARD...
BUT
THAT'S...

A WEAK POINT IN EAST.....!

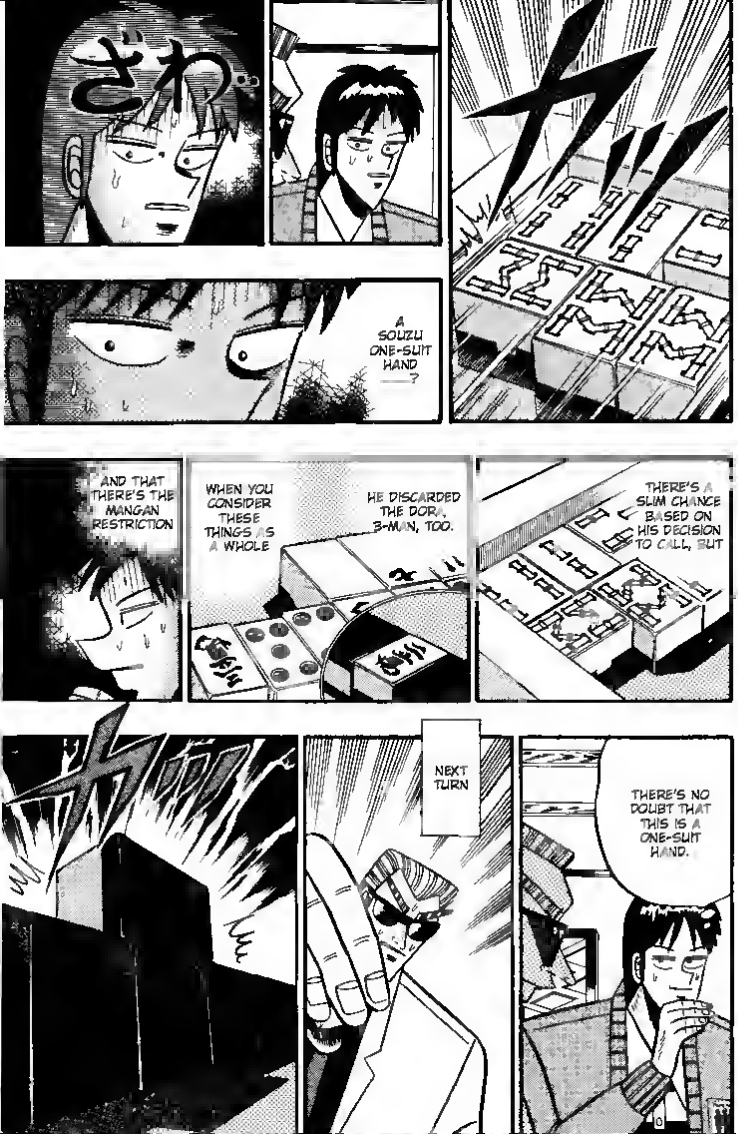
WE'LL STRIKE AT A WEAK POINT.

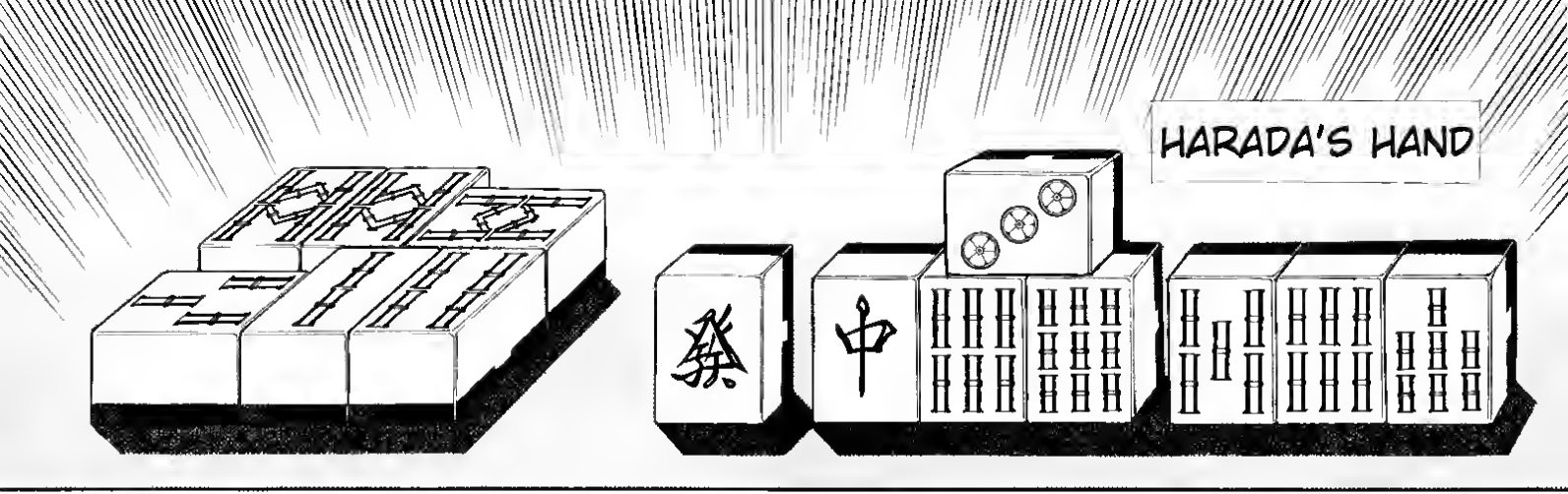
WITH TEN AND AKAGI AT THE TABLE
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT EASY...
THAT PART'S OKAY...


THERE'S A BRIEF MOMENT WHERE THEY HAVE A WEAK POINT ...!


SWITCH TILES THEN ...!

EAST 3RD ROUND.
FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER THE MATCH RESUMED.
CHII...!
WEST GOT THEIR CHANCE—
PON ...!

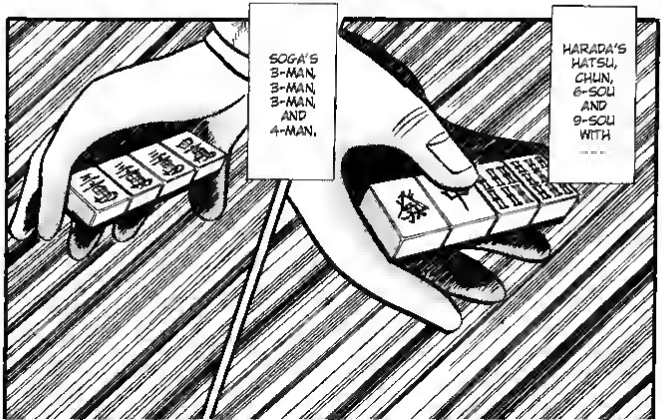

ざわ
ナ!!
A SOUZU ONE-SUIT HAND——?
AND THAT THERE'S THE MANGAN RESTRICTION
WHEN YOU CONSIDER THESE THINGS AS A WHOLE
HE DISCARDED THE DORA, 3-MAN, TOO.
THERE'S A SLIM CHANCE BASED ON HIS DECISION TO CALL, BUT
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS A ONE-SUIT HAND.
NEXT TURN

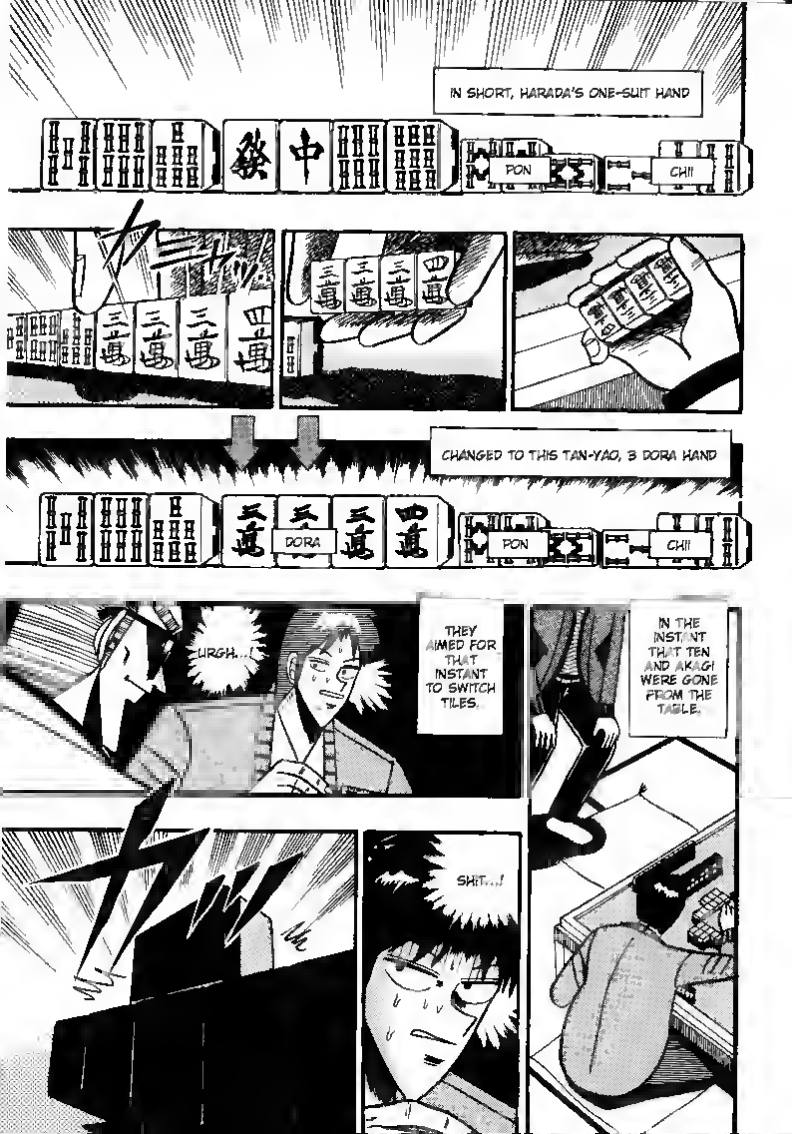

HARADA'S HAND

HE PLAYED THE 1-PIN
AND SWITCHED WITH AKAGI BEHIND HIM.
IN THAT INSTANT...!
UNDER THE TABLE...
WEST MOVED...!

IT FELT LIKE HE STILL HAD A LONG WAY TO GO TO REACH TENPAI
BUT THE SHAPE OF THE TILES HE HAD LEFT WASN'T GOOD
SURE ENOUGH, HARADA'S HAND WAS A ONE-SUIT SOUZU HAND
TEN, WHO HAD BEEN AT THE TABLE FROM THE START SWITCHED OUT.
AT THIS TIME, ON THE 10TH TURN

THEY SWITCHED TILES...!

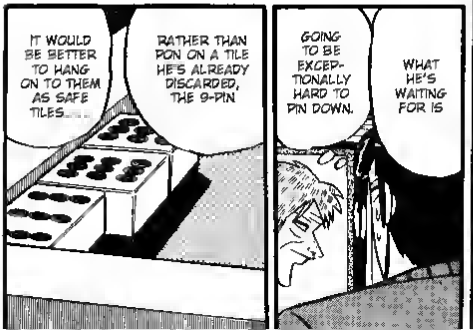

SOGA'S 3-MAN, 3-MAN, 3-MAN, AND 4-MAN.
HARADA'S HATSU, CHUN, 6-SOU AND 9-SOU WITH ....


IN SHORT, HARADA'S ONE-SUIT HAND
PON
CHII
CHANGED TO THIS TAN-YAO, 3 DORA HAND
DORA
PON
CHII
URGH...
THEY AIMED FOR THAT INSTANT TO SWITCH TILES.
IN THE INSTANT THAT TEN AND AKAGI WERE GONE FROM THE TABLE.
SHIT...!

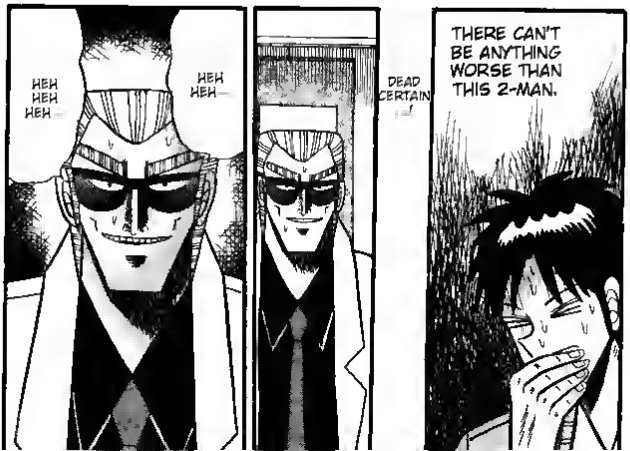
HIROYUKI: TENPAI...!
I'M READY....!
.....
I CAN'T DISCARD THIS 7-MAN.
PROBABLY WHAT SOGA SENT OVER WAS A CLOSED TRIPLE OF THE DORA OR SOMETHING.
PLANNING TO HAVE HIM WIN WITH TAN-YAO 3 DORA...
WHICH MEANS... TILES FOR TAN-YAO OTHER THAN WHAT HE'S ALREADY DISCARDED WON'T GO THROUGH.
WITH THAT TILE-SWITCH I SAW JUST NOW
DISCARD THE 7-MAN AND I'M IN TENPAI, BUT...
I CAN'T DEAL IN AT ANY COST.....
SHIT...!
DAMN THEM AND THEIR DIRTY MAHJONG——!
HUH?
PON...!
AKAGI, WHO CAME IN AFTER TEN
CALLED PON ON THE 9-PIN——!

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT AFTER THAT TILE-SWITCH HARADA
HAS CHANGED TO TAN-YAO, 3 DORA NOW...

WHY ...?
.....


WHAT HE'S WAITING FOR IS
GOING TO BE EXCEP-TIONALLY HARD TO PIN DOWN.
RATHER THAN PON ON A TILE HE'S ALREADY DISCARDED, THE 9-PIN
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HANG ON TO THEM AS SAFE TILES...

HE DIDN'T NOTICE...?
IN THE CONFUSION OF SWITCHING SEATS...
C-COULD IT BE...
HARADA'S TILE-SWITCH ...!
THE 2-MAN...! THE TILE NEXT TO THE DORA...!
GH...!


HEH HEH HEH...
HEH HEH...
DEAD CERTAIN...!
THERE CAN'T BE ANYTHING WORSE THAN THIS 2-MAN.
DID HE DEAL IN ...!?

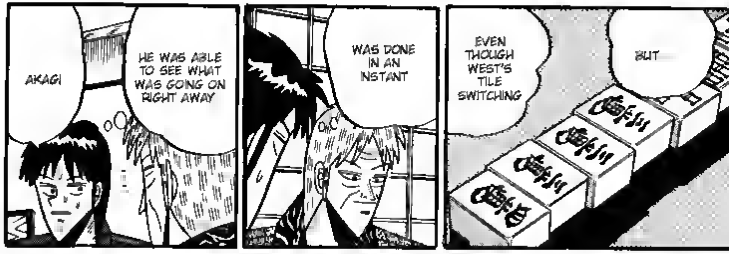
I GOT YOU ...!
AKAGI SHIGERU ...!
URGH...!

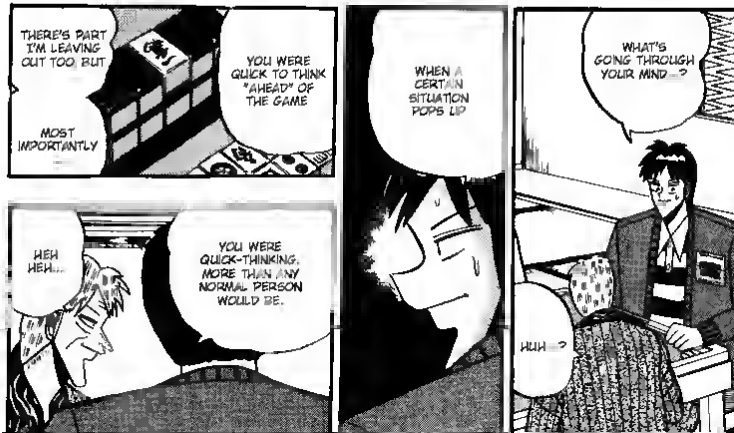
RON.
TAN-YAO, 3 DORA ...!
MANGAN ...!
KH...
OH NO.....!
HEH HEH HEH ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?
NH...?
HOW IS THAT THREE DORA ...?
HUH ...?

THAT'S CRAZY ...!
THE DORA INDICATOR IS 1-MAN ...!
AH...
WAS 2-MAN ...!
UP UNTIL JUST A MINUTE AGO, THE DORA INDICATOR
THE DORA INDICATOR .....!
AND SWITCHED
HE PUT THE 1-MAN IN HIS HAND
.....I GET IT..... WHEN AKAGI PLAYED THE 2-MAN JUST NOW

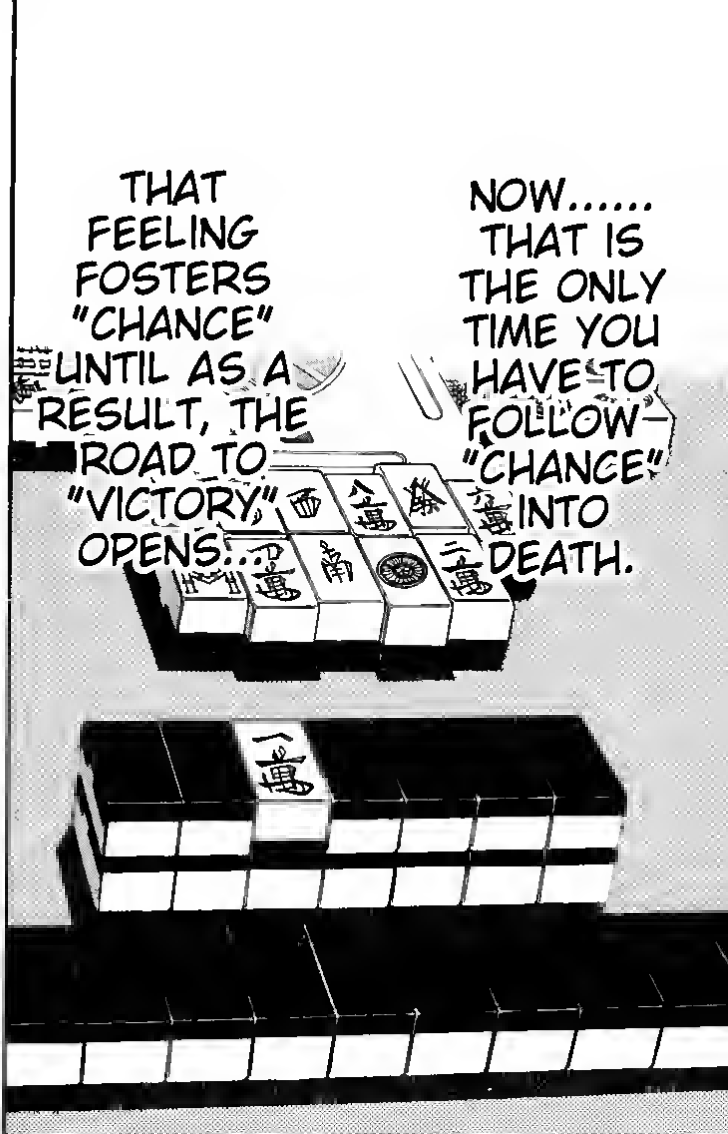
I'VE BEEN TRICKED....!
THE DORA INDICATOR IS 1-MAN...!
I GET IT...
HE KNEW THAT HARADA HAD SWITCHED TILES
HE SWITCHED IT JUST NOW!——
AND THEN CHANGED THE DORA INDICATOR TO THAT——!

GUIDING WEST'S PLAN TOWARD SELF-DESTRUCTION...!


AKAGI
HE WAS ABLE TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON RIGHT AWAY
WAS DONE IN AN INSTANT
EVEN THOUGH WEST'S TILE SWITCHING
BUT...


THERE'S PART I'M LEAVING OUT TOO, BUT
MOST IMPORTANTLY
YOU WERE QUICK TO THINK "AHEAD" OF THE GAME
WHEN A CERTAIN SITUATION POPS UP
WHAT'S GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND...?
HEH HEH...
YOU WERE QUICK-THINKING, MORE THAN ANY NORMAL PERSON WOULD BE.
HUH...?

I MEAN THAT IT'S NOT A CONSCIOUS DECISION
HANDS ARE MOVING...?
ONLY MY HANDS ARE MOVING
HIRO...
IF A PERSON CONCENTRATES, THEY'LL LOSE IT
...?
I'M NOT USING MY HEAD
DON'T USE YOUR HEAD.
OPPORTUNITY WILL SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO.
JUST FEEL IT AND FOLLOW IT INTO DEATH
DON'T USE YOUR HEAD IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH
FURTHER AND FURTHER FROM THE "GAME" ITSELF
GRADUALLY TAKING YOU FURTHER AND FURTHER FROM "A WIN."
"THE CHANCE" WILL ESCAPE YOU
BY DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT
AND SO
YEAH...
FOLLOW INTO DEATH...?


THAT FEELING FOSTERS "CHANCE" UNTIL AS A RESULT, THE ROAD TO "VICTORY" OPENS...
NOW..... THAT IS THE ONLY TIME YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW "CHANCE" INTO DEATH.

WAS A FIGHT TO BRING IT DOWN FROM EIGHT PEOPLE TO FOUR.
THE EAST-WEST BATTLE
THAT SHOW-DOWN
IT STILL HADN'T BEEN RESOLVED
EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD ALREADY PLAYED 10 HAN-CHAN GAMES
HAD BEEN GOING FOR NINE HOURS
THIS BATTLE
IS WHAT FATE IS REFUSING TO TELL US
THAT MAN'S NAME
IT'S AS IF
THAT FINAL PERSON TO BE ELIMINATED
ガシャ
NO-TEN
THEY COULDN'T SETTLE WHO WOULD BE THE LAST ONE TO DROP OUT.

CHAPTER 82
GIVING UP AND KILLING

	NAME	POINTS	
EAST	TEN	16000	18000
	AKAGI	1000	
	HIROYUKI	1000	
WEST	HARADA	2000	30000
	SOGA	1000	

THE POINTS OF THOSE FIVE PEOPLE ARE LIKE SO...

FOR WEST, HARADA AND SOGA

BUT THAT MANGAN WOULDN'T COME...

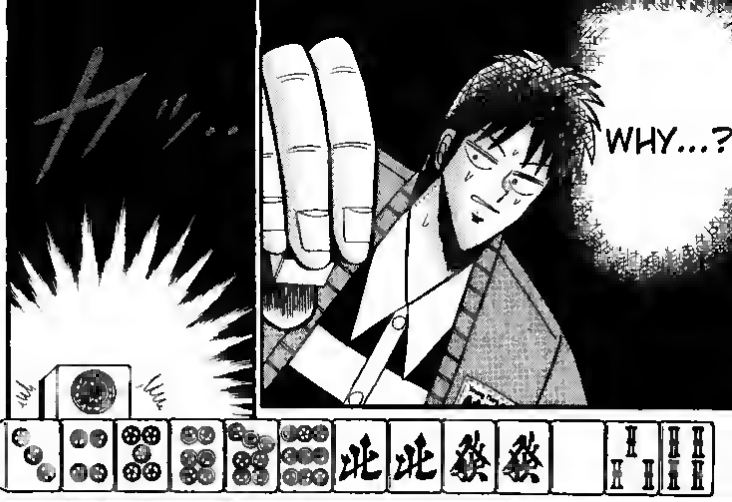
THE NEXT PERSON OTHER THAN TEN WHO PAID INTO MANGAN WOULD BE FINISHED (THE RULE IS THAT WINS ARE RESTRICTED TO MANGAN AND ABOVE)

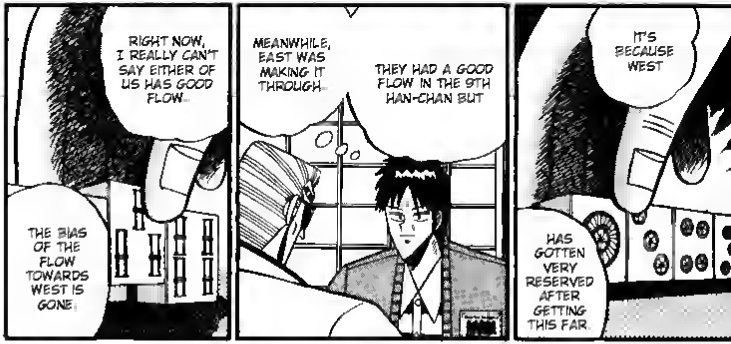
AND HIROYUKI.

TEN, AKAGI

FOR EAST

THE FIVE PEOPLE REMAINING AT PRESENT ARE

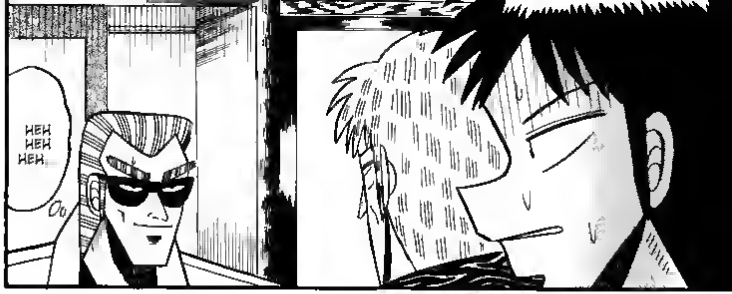

WHY...?

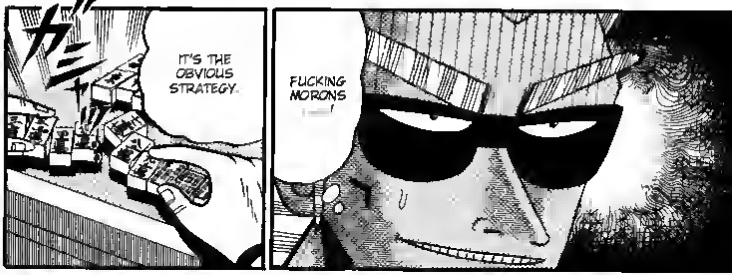

RIGHT NOW, I REALLY CAN'T SAY EITHER OF US HAS GOOD FLOW.
THE BIAS OF THE FLOW TOWARDS WEST IS GONE.
MEANWHILE, EAST WAS MAKING IT THROUGH.
THEY HAD A GOOD FLOW IN THE 9TH HAN-CHAN BUT
IT'S BECAUSE WEST
HAS GOTTEN VERY RESERVED AFTER GETTING THIS FAR.

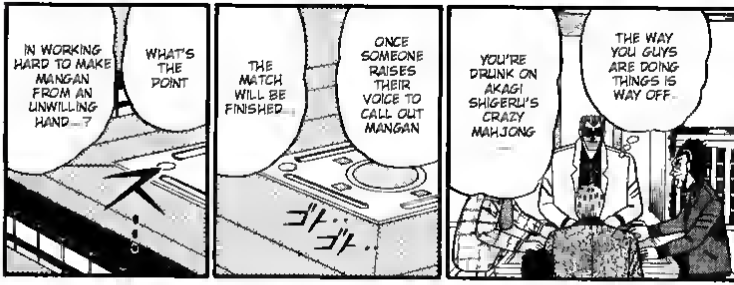
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE CONFRON-TATIONAL
IT'S ALREADY A RISKY MATCH
AND IT'S LIKE THEY'RE IN A CALM SPOT
THIS IS BECAUSE THEIR OWN SIDE'S FLOW IS GONE
WEST
IS FEELING SENSTIVE TOWARDS CHANGE IN THAT FLOW
PICKING THEIR CHANCES CAREFULLY
CHANCES THAT WILL ONLY BENEFIT THEMSELVES
HEH HEH...

PIN-FU, 1 DORA ...!
THAT'S IT .....
バラッ
AGAIN
A WIN THAT ONLY CHANGES THE WINDS.
AGAIN
THEY FELT THAT MY HAND COULD BE WORTH A LOT
AND WON TO CUT IT OFF...
A HAND THAT'S ENOUGH TO TAKE THE MATCH
WITH ONE CHANCE AND ADDING ITSUU, IT WOULD BE A MANGAN HAND.
THE PROBLEM IS HARADA'S HAND
WELL, IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS IT'S A NATURAL STRATEGY TO TAKE BUT
HE'S AVOIDING THAT KIND OF FIGHT
IT'D BE SHEER LUCK
IF BOTH OF US WENT ON WITHOUT FOLDING
IN SHORT BETWEEN HIS MANGAN HAND
HE LAID IT DOWN WITHOUT REGRET...
AND MY MANGAN HAND

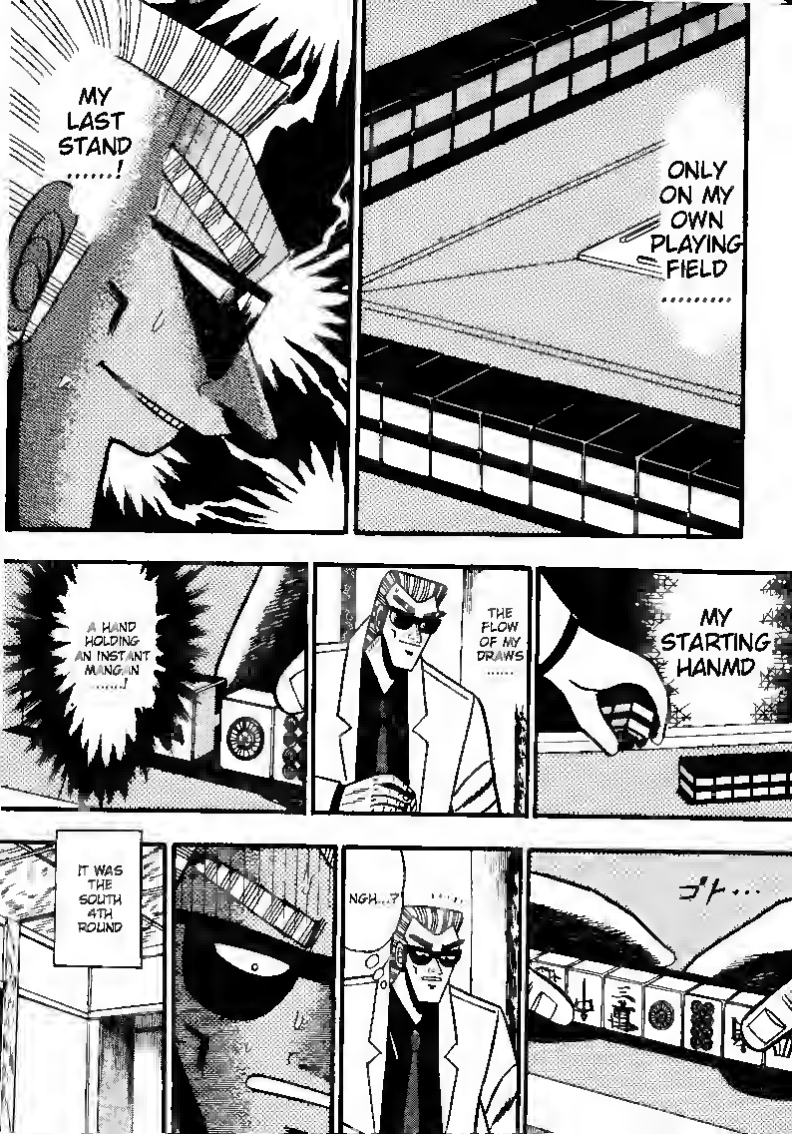
BEFORE WE CAN MAKE A GOOD HAND...
IN SHORT, TO SETTLE THE MATCH
AND THE IDEA IS TO SETTLE THE MATCH IN ABOUT 8 TURNS
THEY'RE AIMING FOR AN INSTANT MANGAN
THEIR INTENT IS CLEAR
FOR INSTANCE, SOMETHING LIKE THIS
一萬 一萬 二萬 二萬 四萬 五萬 六萬
DORA
.....
THEY'RE PLANNING TO WIN QUICKLY .....
ハンッ..
WITH A SETUP LIKE THAT, IT WOULD BE IDEAL TO WIN IN ABOUT 4-5 TURNS .....
A SITUATION LIKE THAT, WHERE THEY HAD A CLOSED TRIPLE OF ONE OF THE FANPAI AND DORA IN THE HAND.....
HEH HEH...
ムス...
CH...
NOT A BAD IDEA, THOSE JERKS...


HEH HEH HEH...

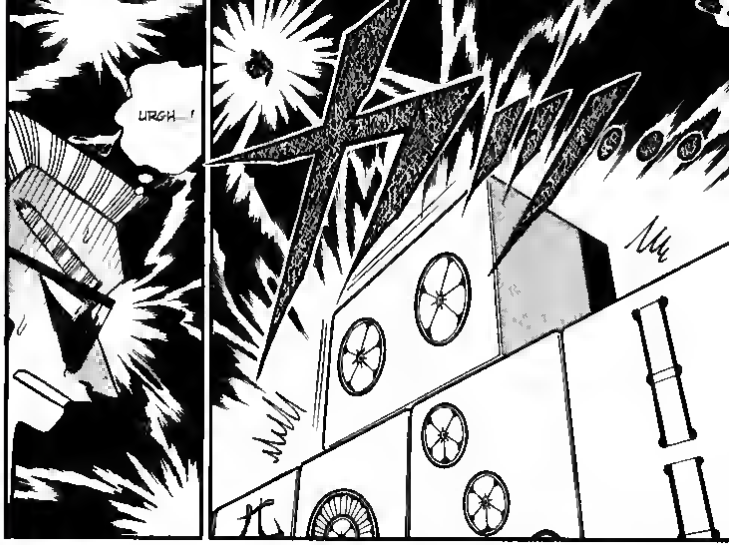

ガッ
IT'S THE OBVIOUS STRATEGY.
FUCKING MORONS...!


IN WORKING HARD TO MAKE MANGAN FROM AN UNWILLING HAND...?
WHAT'S THE POINT
THE MATCH WILL BE FINISHED...
ONCE SOMEONE RAISES THEIR VOICE TO CALL OUT MANGAN
ゴト..ゴト..
YOU'RE DRUNK ON AKAGI SHIGERU'S CRAZY MAHJONG
THE WAY YOU GUYS ARE DOING THINGS IS WAY OFF.

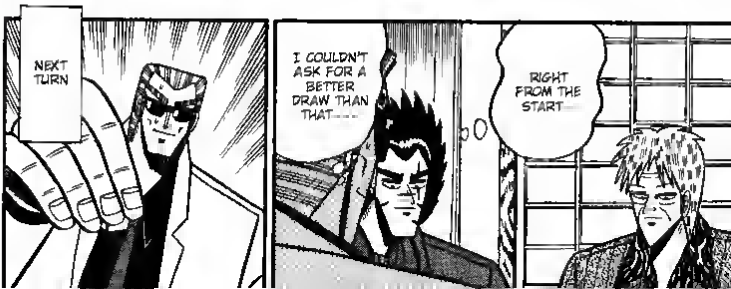
NOW
.....
.....
JUST
WAIT
.....


MY LAST STAND .....!
ONLY ON MY OWN PLAYING FIELD .....
A HAND HOLDING AN INSTANT MANGAN .....!
THE FLOW OF MY DRAWS .....
MY STARTING HANMD
IT WAS THE SOUTH 4TH ROUND
NGH...?
ゴト...

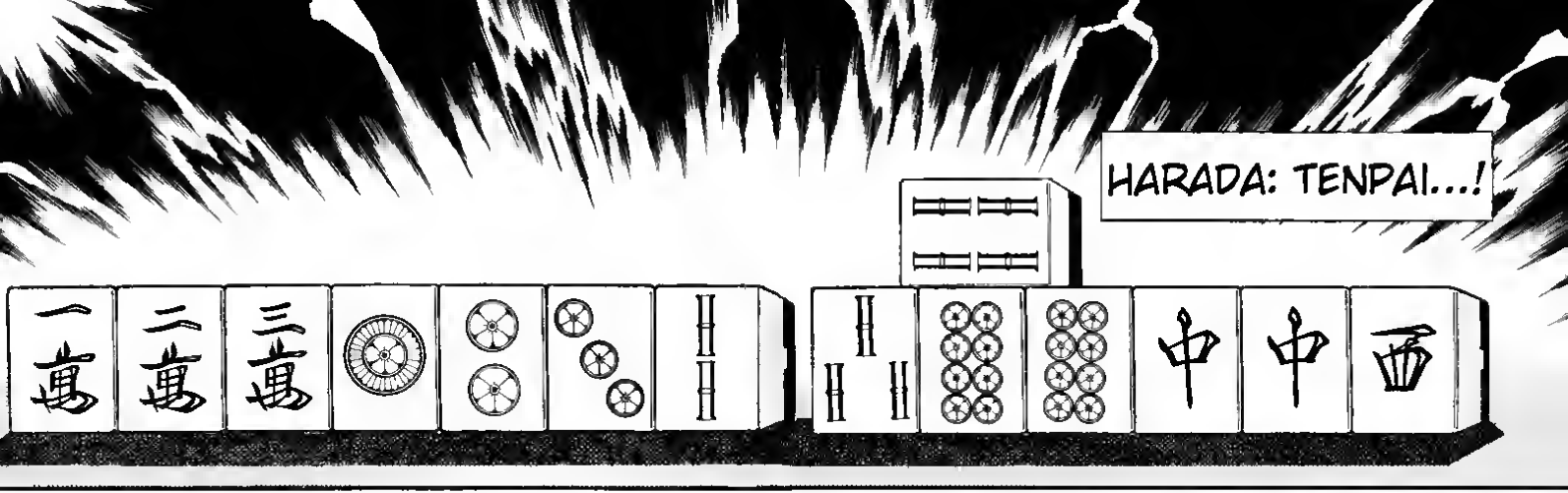
HARADA'S STARTING HAND...!
一萬 二萬 三萬 九萬
中 中 南 西
SOGA HAS A PAIR OF THE DORA, 8-PIN, TOO
HUH...?
I HAVE A PAIR OF THE DORA
THIS'LL BE INTERESTING.
HEH HEH
SO THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THE CHUN
HEH HEH HEH...
I CAN CALL ON THIS PAIR WHENEVER I WANT.
...THIS MEANS .....
AND PAIR OF THE FANPAI, CHUN
A PAIR OF THE DORA AND
IS THIS IT...?
チラッ..
IT'S AN INSTANT MANGAN.
IF I CAN CALL ON THOSE RIGHT AWAY

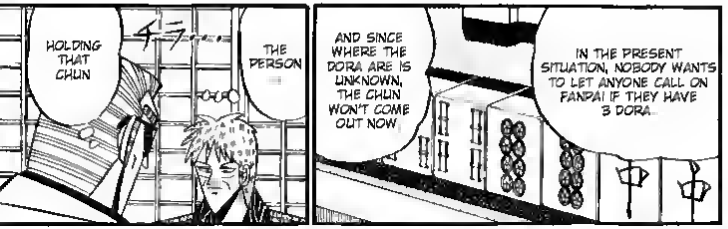

URGH...!

A VITAL CLOSED WAIT FILLED
SO THAT THIS HAND CAN BE A QUICK WIN
KEEP THIS

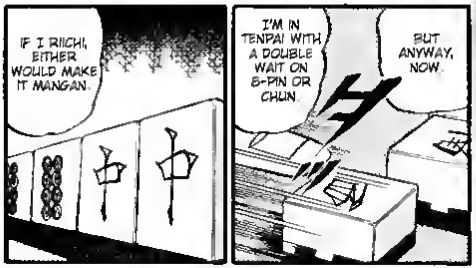

NEXT TURN
I COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER DRAW THAN THAT...
RIGHT FROM THE START...

A QUICK FLOW...
FASTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE AT THE TABLE...!
NO PROBLEM. IT'S COMING ALONG
THIS TIME, IT GOES RIGHT NEXT TO THE LONE 2-SOU
KH...
THAT'S ALL I NEED...!
THE NEXT PROBLEM IS
WILL I SUCCEED AT MANGAN OR NOT...
NEXT TURN...!


HARADA: TENPAI...!

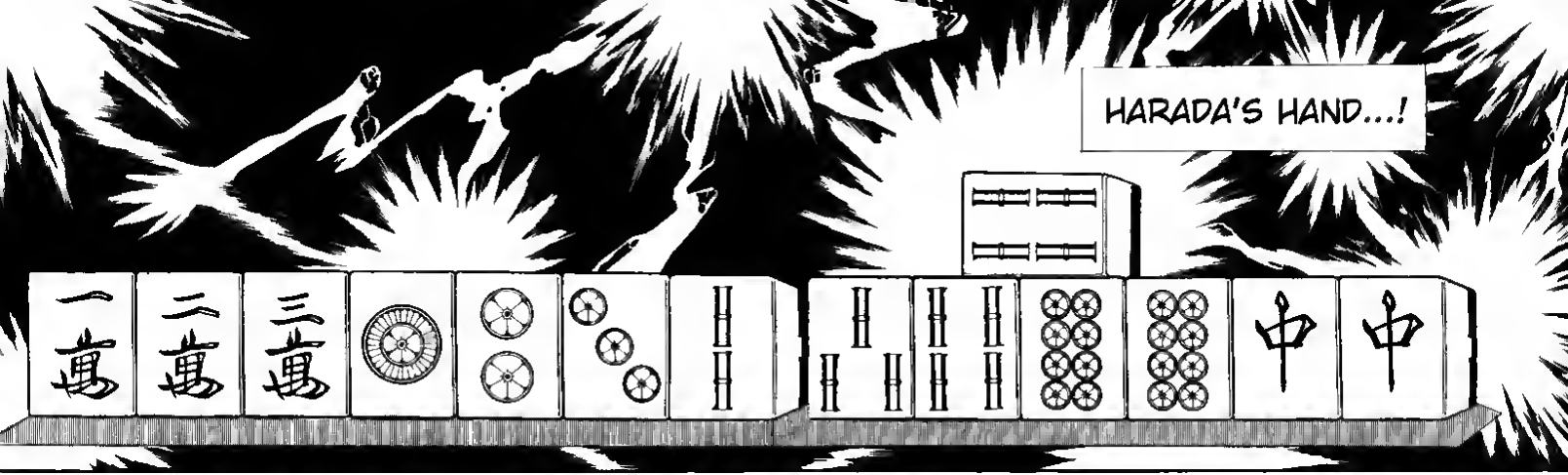

HOLDING THAT CHUN
THE PERSON
AND SINCE WHERE THE DORA ARE IS UNKNOWN, THE CHUN WON'T COME OUT NOW
IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, NOBODY WANTS TO LET ANYONE CALL ON FANPAI IF THEY HAVE 3 DORA.

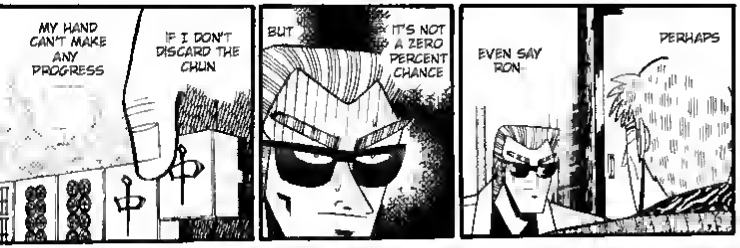
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF IT...!
HIS DISCARDS STINK OF A ONE-SUIT HAND.
HAS TO BE AKAGI .....
HE'S HOLDING THE CHUN .....

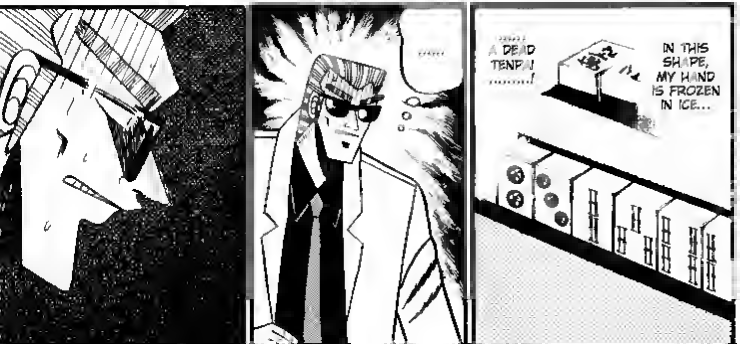

IF I RIICHI, EITHER WOULD MAKE IT MANGAN.
I'M IN TENPAI WITH A DOUBLE WAIT ON 8-PIN OR CHUN.
BUT ANYWAY, NOW.
THE WRONG SIDE FOR SAN-SHOKU, THE 4-SOU...
GOT IT ...

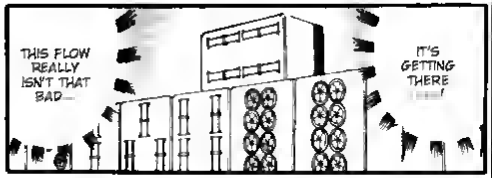
SHOULD HAVE COME OUT EARLIER...
BUT THE CHUN
MY WAIT WILL ONLY BE CHUN.
BUT... SOGA IS HOLDING TWO OF THE 8-PIN, SO I CAN'T HOPE TO WIN FROM THAT.....

AKAGI'S HAND...!
THAT TOO TIED DOWN HIS HAND
HAD A HUNCH ABOUT DISPOSING OF THE CHUN
AND ON TOP OF THAT, HE
IN THE END
THIS CHUN WAS WHAT TIED IT DOWN
WHEN HAVING TO MAKE MANGAN
WITH A PAIR OF THE CHUN, EVEN IF HE WANTED TO RUN STRAIGHT AHEAD FOR AN OBVIOUS CHIN-ITSU PIN-FU AND TAN-YAO WERE OUT!
HARADA'S PREDICTION WAS ACCURATE
AT THIS TIME, AKAGI
YES.
5TH TURN ...!
NEITHER COULD GET RID OF IT
WITH THIS CHUN SITUATION
AND NEITHER OF THEM COULD MOVE .....
WERE AS GOOD AS DEAD.
LIKE THIS, BOTH HARADA AND AKAGI'S HANDS
THAT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY BUT
IF IT WAS FOR ANY OLD WIN
BUT AKAGI WAS STRUGGLING WITH HIS HAND TOO.
IT FELT LIKE A ONE-SUIT HAND.
HAD TWO OF THE PROBLEMATIC CHUN IN HIS HAND

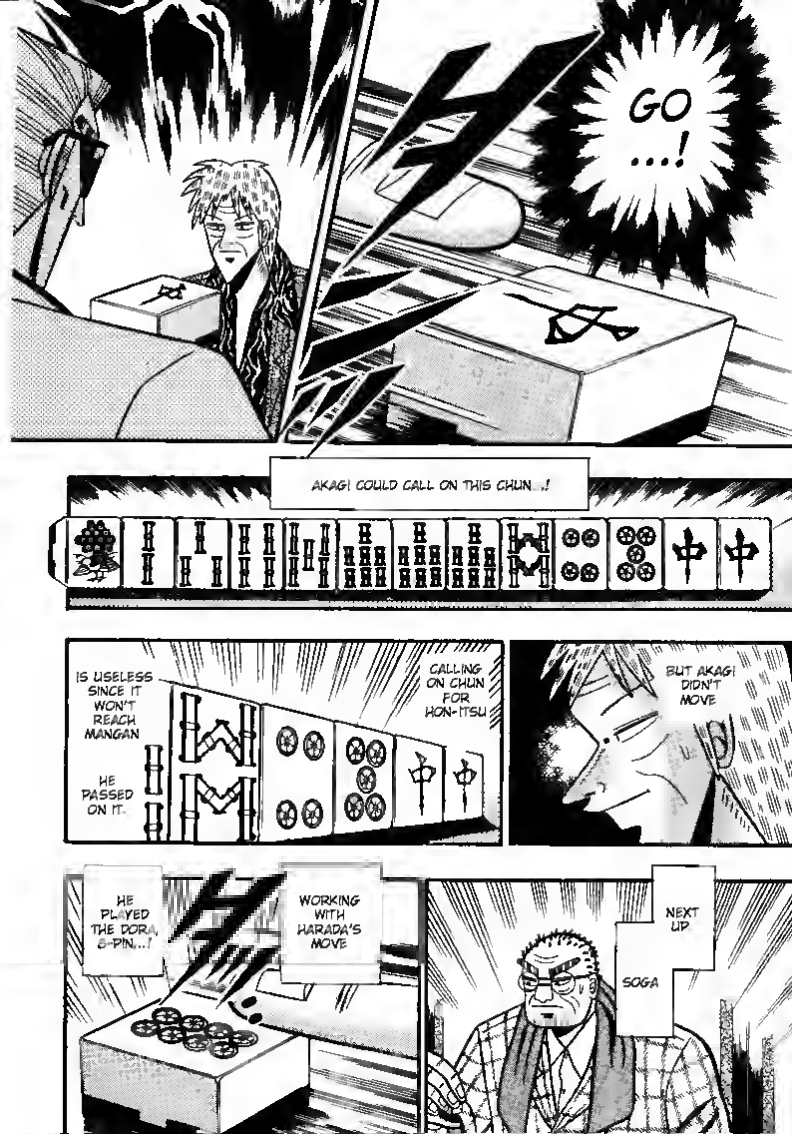

HARADA'S HAND...!


MY HAND CAN'T MAKE ANY PROGRESS
IF I DON'T DISCARD THE CHUN
BUT
IT'S NOT A ZERO PERCENT CHANCE
EVEN SAY RON
PERHAPS

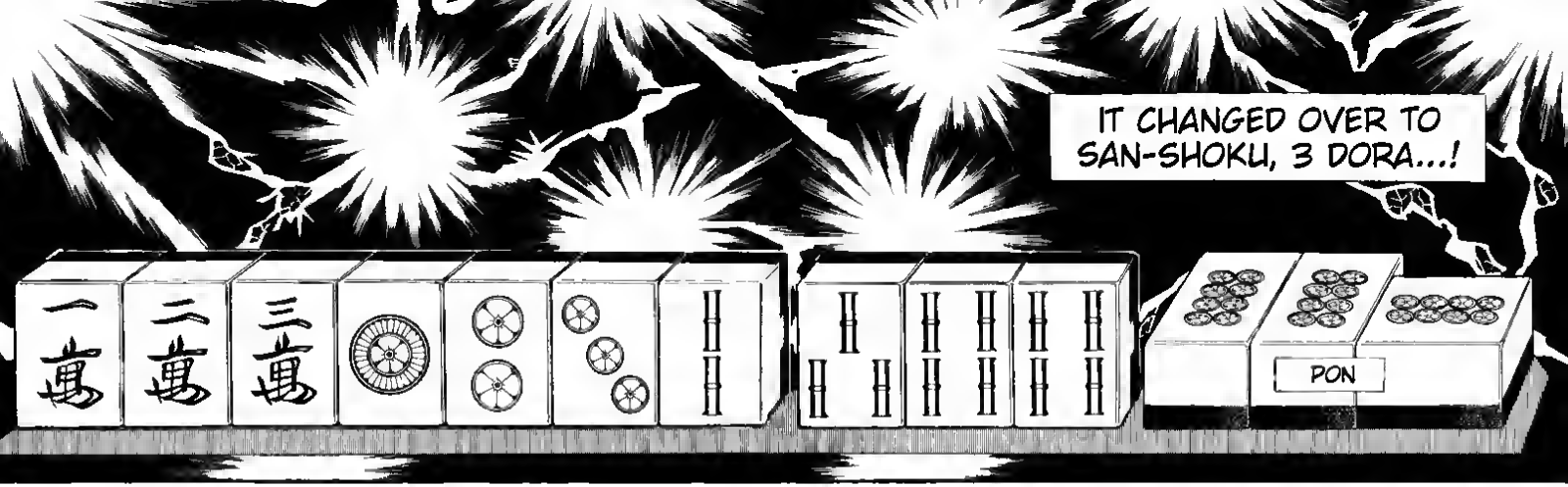

.....
A DEAD TENPAI .....
IN THIS SHAPE, MY HAND IS FROZEN IN ICE...

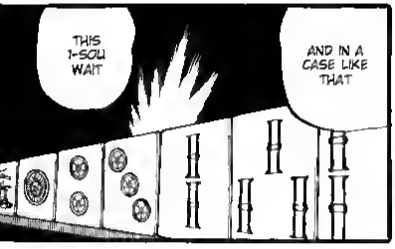

THIS FLOW REALLY ISN'T THAT BAD—
IT'S GETTING THERE

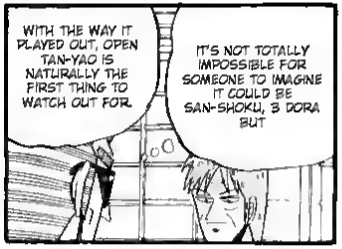
IF I DISCARD, HE'LL CALL .....
THESE CHUN... AKAGI'S PROBABLY HOLDING ON TO THEM.
I'M GETTING THERE...


GO ...!
AKAGI COULD CALL ON THIS CHUN...!
IS USELESS SINCE IT WON'T REACH MANGAN
HE PASSED ON IT.
CALLING ON CHUN FOR HON-ITSU
BUT AKAGI DIDN'T MOVE
HE PLAYED THE DORA, 8-PIN...!
WORKING WITH HARADA'S MOVE
NEXT UP
SOGA

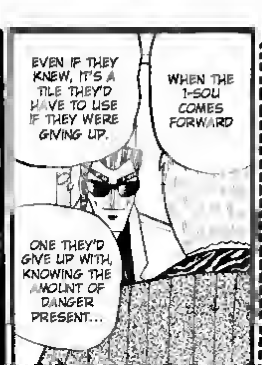
PON...!
HE CHANGED HIS TENPAI IN AN INSTANT.
FOR A NEW TEN-PAI
GIVING UP ON HIS CHUN OR 8-PIN WAIT
HARADA ONCE AGAIN PLAYED THE CHUN.
BY DROPPING A PAIR OF CHUN
A QUICK CHANGE


IT CHANGED OVER TO SAN-SHOKU, 3 DORA...!
PON


THIS 1-SOU WAIT
AND IN A CASE LIKE THAT


WITH THE WAY IT PLAYED OUT, OPEN TAN-YAO IS NATURALLY THE FIRST THING TO WATCH OUT FOR.
IT'S NOT TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO IMAGINE IT COULD BE SAN-SHOKU, 3 DORA BUT

AKAGI SHIGERU IS NO EXCEPTION.
GETTING RID OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS AN INEVITABLE EVENT IN MAHJONG THAT YOU CAN'T AVOID.


EVEN IF THEY KNEW, IT'S A TILE THEY'D HAVE TO USE IF THEY WERE GIVING UP.
WHEN THE 1-SOU COMES FORWARD
ONE THEY'D GIVE UP WITH, KNOWING THE AMOUNT OF DANGER PRESENT...

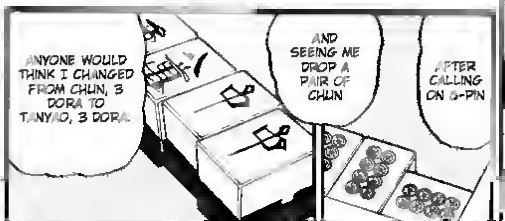
IS SURE TO COME MY WAY.

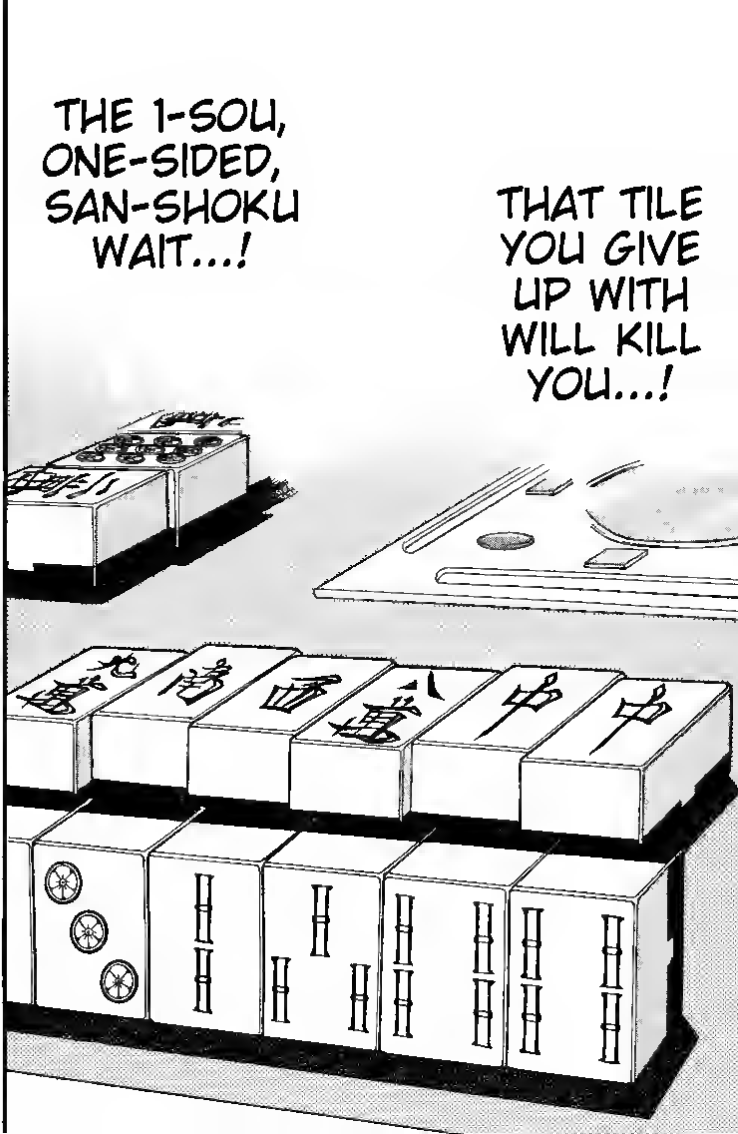
THE ONLY THING I CAN WIN FROM IS 1-SOU, MAKING IT A ONE-SIDED WAIT FOR A SAN-SHOKU HAND...
BUT THE 4-SOU GIVES MY HAND NO YAKU AND I CAN'T WIN!

WAITING ON 1-SOU OR 4-SOU ...!
TENPAI.

THERE'S A CERTAIN MEANING TO THIS BEING AN IDEAL TENPAI

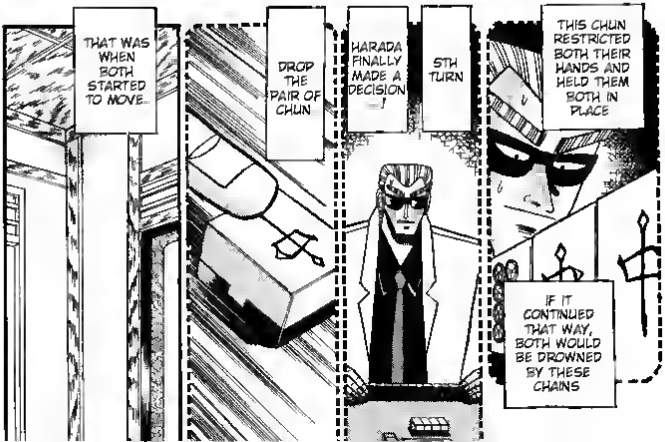
AT FIRST GLANCE IT SEEMS INCONVEN-IENT, BUT...
HEH HEH...


ANYONE WOULD THINK I CHANGED FROM CHUN, 3 DORA TO TANYAO, 3 DORA.
AND SEEING ME DROP A PAIR OF CHUN
AFTER CALLING ON 5-PIN


THE 1-SOU, ONE-SIDED, SAN-SHOKU WAIT...!
THAT TILE YOU GIVE UP WITH WILL KILL YOU...!

SHOW-DOWN OF THE EAST-WEST BATTLE

BOTH THEIR HANDS HAD A PAIR OF CHUN.
BUT
BOTH OF THEM AIMING FOR MANGAN HANDS.
THIS ROUND WAS SHAPING UP TO BE AKAGI VS. HARADA
SOUTH 4TH ROUND IN THE 10TH HAN-CHAN.


THAT WAS WHEN BOTH STARTED TO MOVE.
DROP THE PAIR OF CHUN
HARADA FINALLY MADE A DECISION!
5TH TURN
THIS CHUN RESTRICTED BOTH THEIR HANDS AND HELD THEM BOTH IN PLACE
IF IT CONTINUED THAT WAY, BOTH WOULD BE DROWNED BY THESE CHAINS

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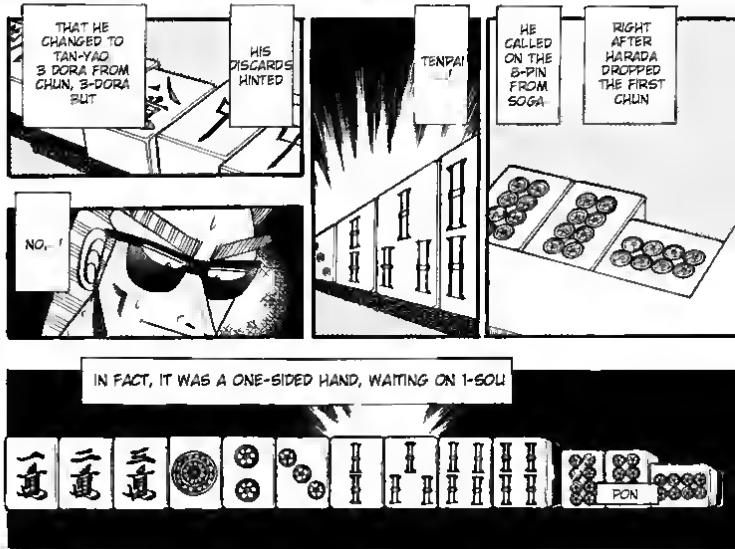
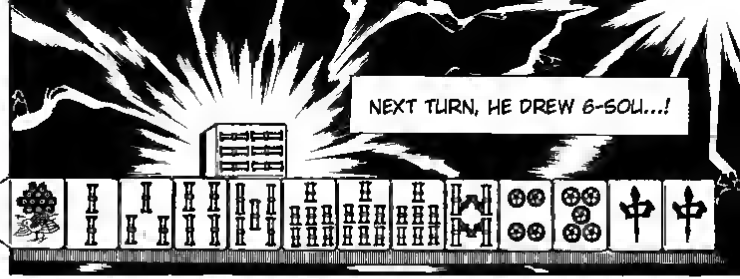
CHAPTER 83
FIRM STANCE

IN ANY CASE
WITH HIS OPPONENTS WATCHING OUT FOR TAN-YAO
EVENTUALLY THE TIME WOULD COME TO TAKE CARE OF THE 1-SOU
THE 1-SOU HE WAS AIMING TO KILL WITH!
IT WAS TIME TO START TO MOVE
FOR AKAGI TOO


THAT HE CHANGED TO TAN-YAO 3 DORA FROM CHUN, 3-DORA BUT
HIS DISCARDS HINTED
NO...!
TENPAI
HE CALLED ON THE 8-PIN FROM SOGA
RIGHT AFTER HARADA DROPPED THE FIRST CHUN
IN FACT, IT WAS A ONE-SIDED HAND, WAITING ON 1-SOU
PON

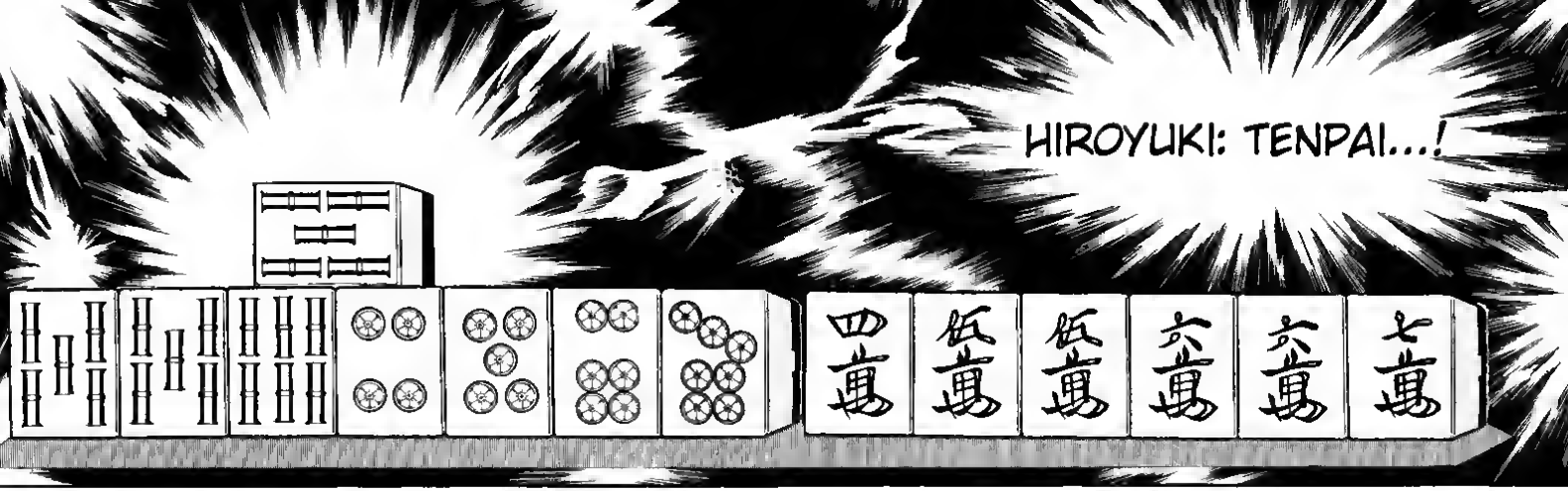

NEXT TURN, HE DREW 6-SOU...!

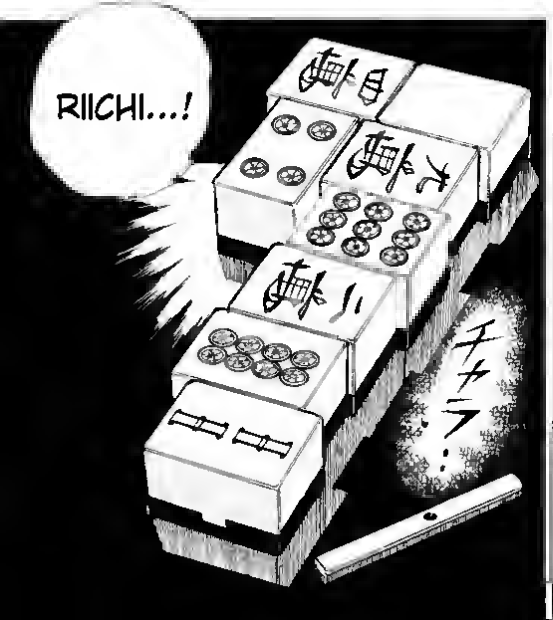
ON THIS
ON HAYAMA'S DISCARDED 7-SOU
AND THE SAME TURN
DEALT OUT CHUN ...!

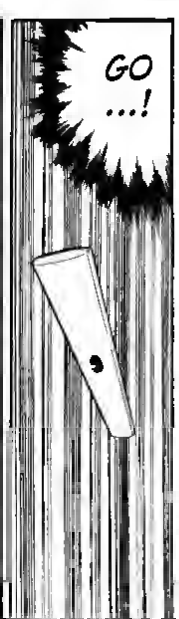
PON...!
AKAGI HAD...

RYAN-SHAN-TEN FOR CHIN-ITSU.
PON
TEN WENT TO SIT BEHIND AKAGI
AT THIS POINT, HIROYUKI SWITCHED WITH TEN
IT WAS THE 7TH TURN
TAKING THE DIRECT ROUTE TO CHIN-ITSU ...?
HE DROPPED A PAIR OF CHUN
IS PRETTY RISKY
DISPOSING OF THE 4-PIN AND 5-PIN HERE
I DON'T GET THE FEELING THAT IT'S IN AKAGI'S NATURE TO GO FOR ONLY TAN-YAO JUST TO CHANGE THE WINDS
IT'S MOST LIKELY THAT THE 4-PIN OR 5-PIN IS HARADA'S WINNING TILE
IT FEELS LIKE HARADA IS ALREADY IN TENPAI
BUT

AKAGI: II-SHAN-TEN FOR CHIN-ITSU...!
PON
IT'S DOWN TO THE FINAL STRETCH
IF IT WORKS, THEN GO FOR IT.
HE DIDN'T HESITATE
NO CHOICE BUT TO PUSH FOR-WARD...!
EVEN IF HE DODGES A DIRECT HIT
HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO GO FOR IT
IF HARADA GETS TSUMO IT'LL ALL BE THE SAME IN THE END
URGH...
THERE'S NO SIGN OF IT.
HE DIDN'T EVADE A HIT
IT PASSED
HE'S DROPPING THE 4-PIN AND 5-PIN, GOING FOR A DIRECT ROUTE TO CHIN-ITSU
ざわ・・


HIROYUKI: TENPAI...!


RIICHI...!
チャラ!


GO ...!

IT WILL REACH MANGAN
WITHOUT RIICHI

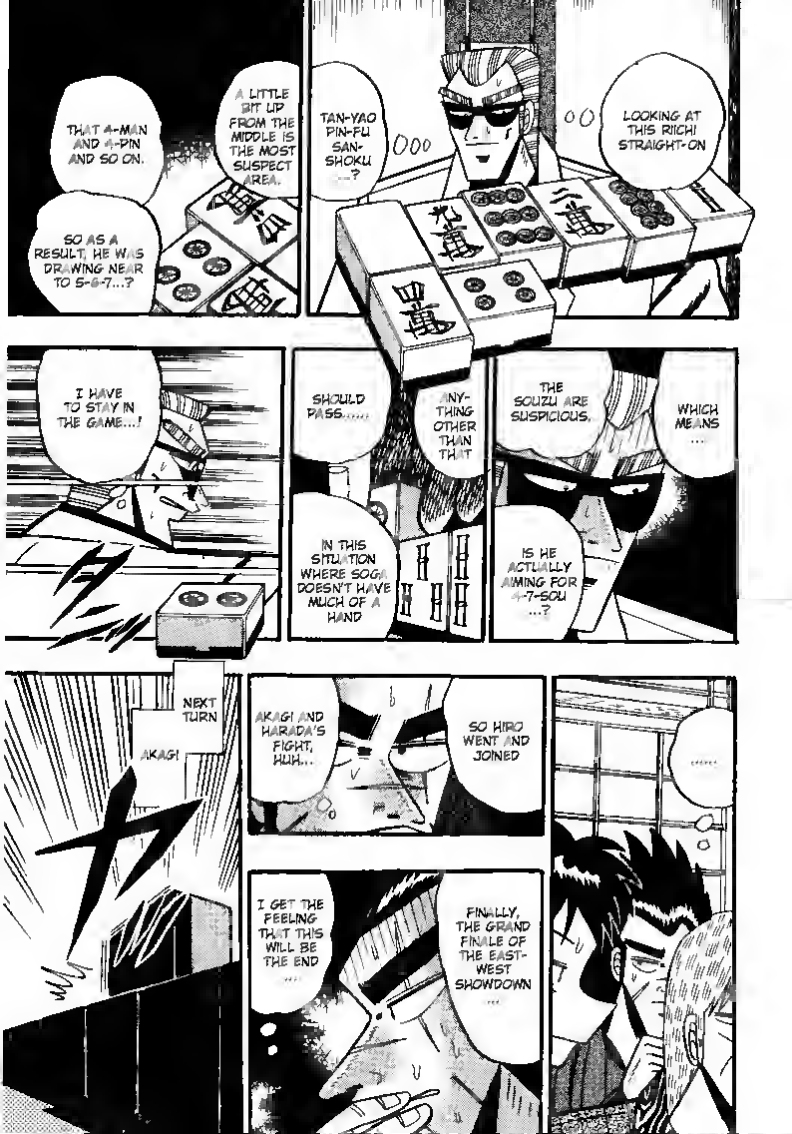
WITH THIS, IF I CAN GET 7-SOU IT'S TAN-YAO, PIN-FU SAN-SHOKU
I GOT AN IDEAL DRAW, 5-SOU

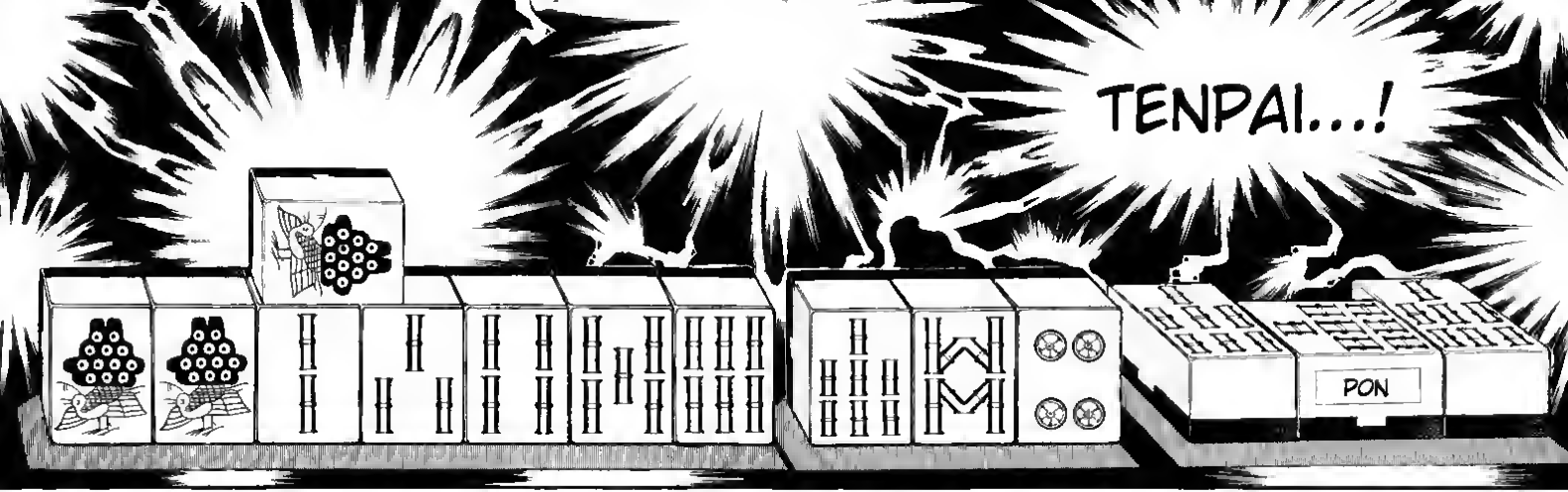
WAITING ON 4-SOU, 7-SOU OR 8-SOU
MY HAND'S READY

EVEN THOUGH I COULD PLAY INTO MY OPPONENT'S HAND
THIS IS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO.
I WAS GOING TO DISCARD 4-PIN AND STAY QUIET, AIMING FOR 7-SOU...
BUT IN THIS FINAL ROUND

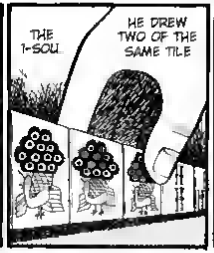
WITH THAT IN MIND
SO FAR I'VE BEEN HALF AVOIDING DEALING IN

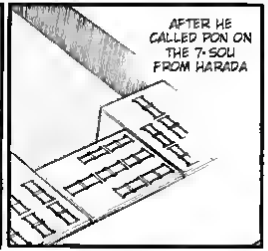
IF THE 4-SOU OR 6-SOU COME OUT, AND WITH URA-DORA
WITH RICHI, EVEN IF IT'S NOT THE 7-SOU
IT'LL BE MANGAN.
THIS'LL PUT HARADA UNDER A BIT OF PRESSURE...
HEH HEH...
I'LL LAY DOWN MY HAND WITHOUT HESITATION...!
IF HARADA OR EVEN SOGA DISCARD 4-SOU OR 6-SOU
A GOOD CHANCE TO FINISH THIS
SO HE'S GOING TO COME AT ME WITHOUT FEAR, HUH...
WHAT AN ANNOYING LITTLE SHRIMP
PON


A LITTLE BIT UP FROM THE MIDDLE IS THE MOST SUSPECT AREA.
THAT 4-MAN AND 4-PIN AND SO ON.
SO AS A RESULT, HE WAS DRAWING NEAR TO 5-6-7...?
TAN-YAO PIN-FU SAN-SHOKU ...?
LOOKING AT THIS RICH! STRAIGHT-ON
I HAVE TO STAY IN THE GAME...!
SHOULD PASS.....
ANY-THING OTHER THAN THAT
IN THIS SITUATION WHERE SOGA DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF A HAND
THE SOUZU ARE SUSPICIOUS.
WHICH MEANS ...
IS HE ACTUALLY AIMING FOR 4-7-SOU ...?
NEXT TURN
AKAGI
AKAGI AND HARADA'S FIGHT, HUH...
SO HIRO WENT AND JOINED
.....
I GET THE FEELING THAT THIS WILL BE THE END ...
FINALLY, THE GRAND FINALE OF THE EAST-WEST SHOWDOWN ...

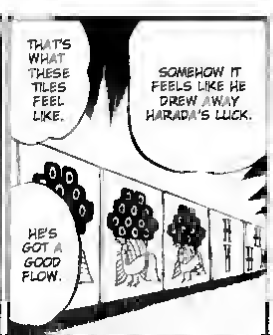

TENPAI...!
PON

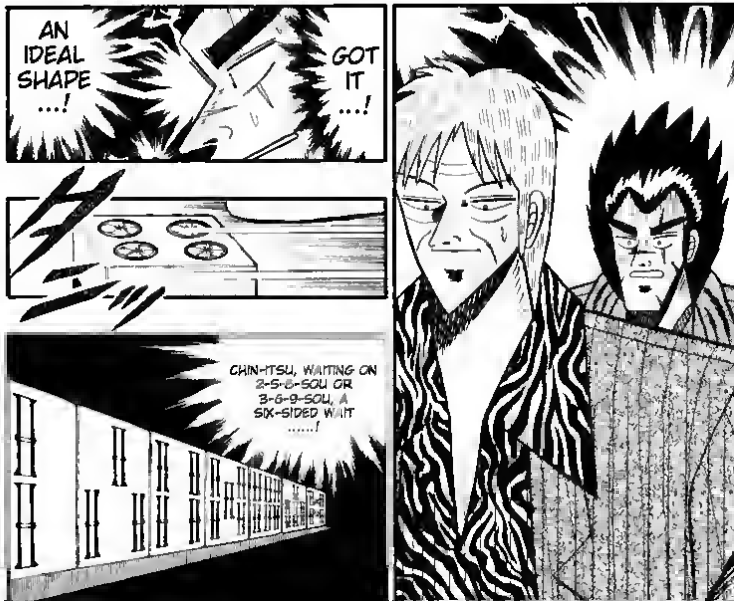
AKAGI DEVOURED
THIS 7-SOU
THE TILES HARADA WOULD HAVE DRAWN

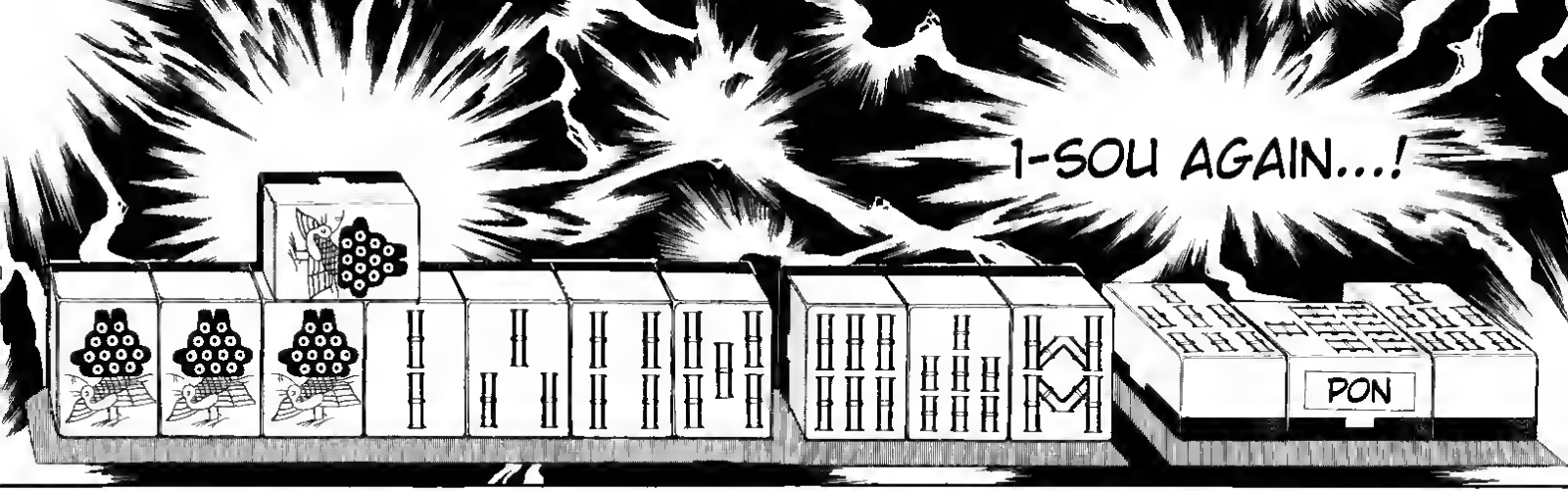

THE 7-SOU
HE DREW TWO OF THE SAME TILE


AFTER HE CALLED PON ON THE 7-SOU FROM HARADA

AKAGI...!
WITH POWER LIKE THAT BEHIND YOU, DRAW YOUR WINNING TILE IN ONE MOVE...


THAT'S WHAT THESE TILES FEEL LIKE.
SOMEHOW IT FEELS LIKE HE DREW AWAY HARADA'S LUCK.
HE'S GOT A GOOD FLOW.

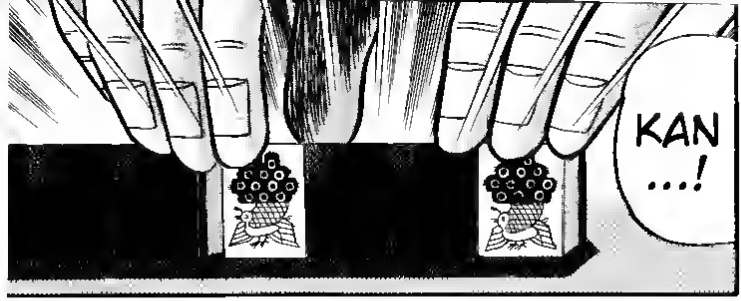

AN IDEAL SHAPE ...!
GOT IT ...!
CHIN-ITSU, WAITING ON 2-5-8-SOU OR 3-6-9-SOU, A SIX-SIDED WAIT .....!


1-SOU AGAIN...!
PON

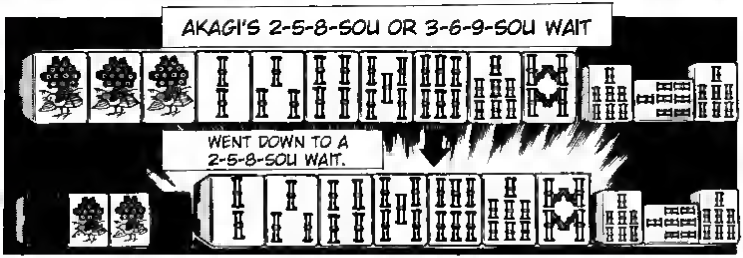
TEN-
HEH HEH...
HUH...?
I WONDER IF IT CAME DOWN FROM THE STARS .....?

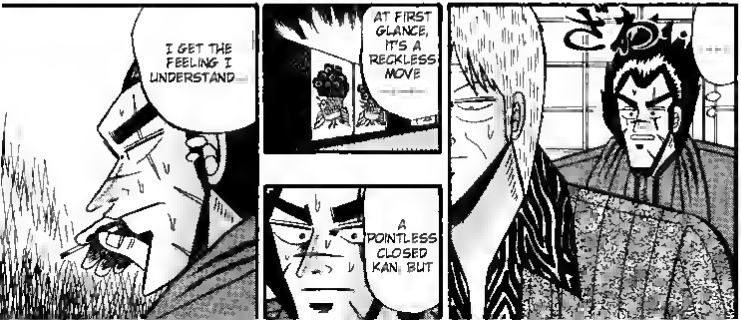
THAT'S STRANGE...
THE THIRD 1-SOU IN A ROW...
HE COULD TOSS IT OUT THERE WITHOUT A PROBLEM
IT SEEMS LIKE IT WILL PASS HARADA AND HIS TAN-YAO.
NORMALLY, HE WOULDN'T NEED THIS THIRD 1-SOU.
BUT...

FROM THE GODDESS OF VICTORY
...
THIS 1-SOU IS A MESSENGER.....!


KAN ...!

GH...


AKAGI'S 2-5-8-SOU OR 3-6-9-SOU WAIT
WENT DOWN TO A 2-5-8-SOU WAIT.


I GET THE FEELING I UNDERSTAND...
AT FIRST GLANCE, IT'S A RECKLESS MOVE
A POINTLESS CLOSED KAN. BUT

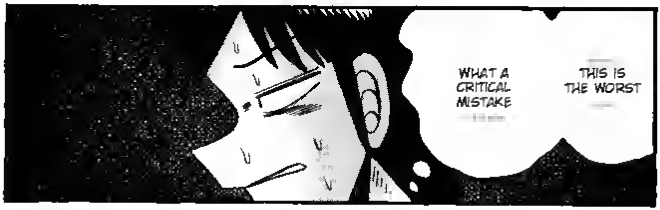
MAHJONG ISN'T ABOUT COUNTING UP THE TILES IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES
COMMUNI-CATING WITH SOMETHING
THAT HANDLES THE MATCH
THAT SENSITIVITY TO THE GAME...
AKAGI HEARD A VOICE
OR SOMETHING, COMING FROM THIS 1-SOU
"HANG ON TO IT"
THIS 1-SOU IS THE TILE THAT CONTROLS YOUR FATE...
HE COULDN'T LET A SINGLE ONE LEAVE HIS HAND...
THAT WAS WHAT HE FELT
GH...
IN THE END
AKAGI AND TEN'S HUNCHES WERE RIGHT
THE 1-SOU WAS HARADA'S WINNING TILE.
HARADA'S PLAN TO KILL HIM WHEN HE GAVE UP
CRUMBLED BEFORE AKAGI'S HEAVENLY LUCK AND GENIUS
BY LOSING ALL OF HIS WINNING TILES
HARADA WAS AS GOOD AS DEAD.
BUT...
FROM HERE ON, HARADA SHOWED AN UNBELIEVABLY FIRM STANCE.
DESPERATE TO NOT GET SHOVED OUT OF THE RING, HE...

AKAGI
RECKLESS AS USUAL
HEH HEH HEH
I'LL TAKE THAT 4-SOU
HIS YAKU
PLANNING TO REVEA HIS HAND
C-COULD HE BE
HUH?
BUT THAT WON'T CONTINUE MUCH LONGER
RON...!

ハネラ!!
THE ONE WHO TURNED OVER HIS HAND WAS HIROYUKI ...!
IF HARADA CALLED RON
IT WOULD BE TAN-YAO 3 DORA MANGAN
IN THAT CASE, HE'D RATHER HAVE ATAMA-HANE
AS LONG AS HE DIDN'T HAVE URA-DORA, IT WOULDN'T REACH MANGAN
THAT WAS HIS IDEA
AN ESCAPE ROUTE RON.
BUT...
パリ..
PON..
...HUH...?
YEAH...
P-PON...?

THIS IS CLEARLY
NOBODY'D PON LIKE THAT
A BAD SHAPE OF HIS SOUZU REMAINS
IF HE CALLED PON ON 4-SOU
I WAS FOOLED
IF I GET EVEN ONE URA-DORA, IT'S MANGAN
WITH THIS HAND THAT I TURNED OVER
I'VE BEEN TRICKED
A FINGER TRAP
AIMING TO TRIP ME UP
TO CHANGE TO TAN-YAO
I'D HAVE PON'D ON THE 4-SOU
BECAUSE MY WINNING 1-SOU IS GONE
HEH HEH
ざわ…ざわ…
JUST TO CHANGE THE FLOW
KH

AKAGI WILL BE GONE...!


WHAT A CRITICAL MISTAKE
THIS IS THE WORST

■天TEN 9／完

GH...!